Tomoi

Akisato Wakuni

Volume 1

Ch 1

HotCakes Presents

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HotCakes

-Remember the HotCakes Sabbath day,
to keep it holy.
3 days shalt thou wait before thou make unto
any forum, online reading site, IRC or
P2P host any image of HotCakes releases.

Shalt HotCakes find any image of the release
uploaded elsewhere before the
3 days hath past thou shalt be banished to
the purgatory of extended release delays and
releases may be made accessible to true
believers within our congregation only.

-Thou shalt not take the name of
HotCakes in vain nor
shalt thou remove any credits or inserts
from the HotCakes files.

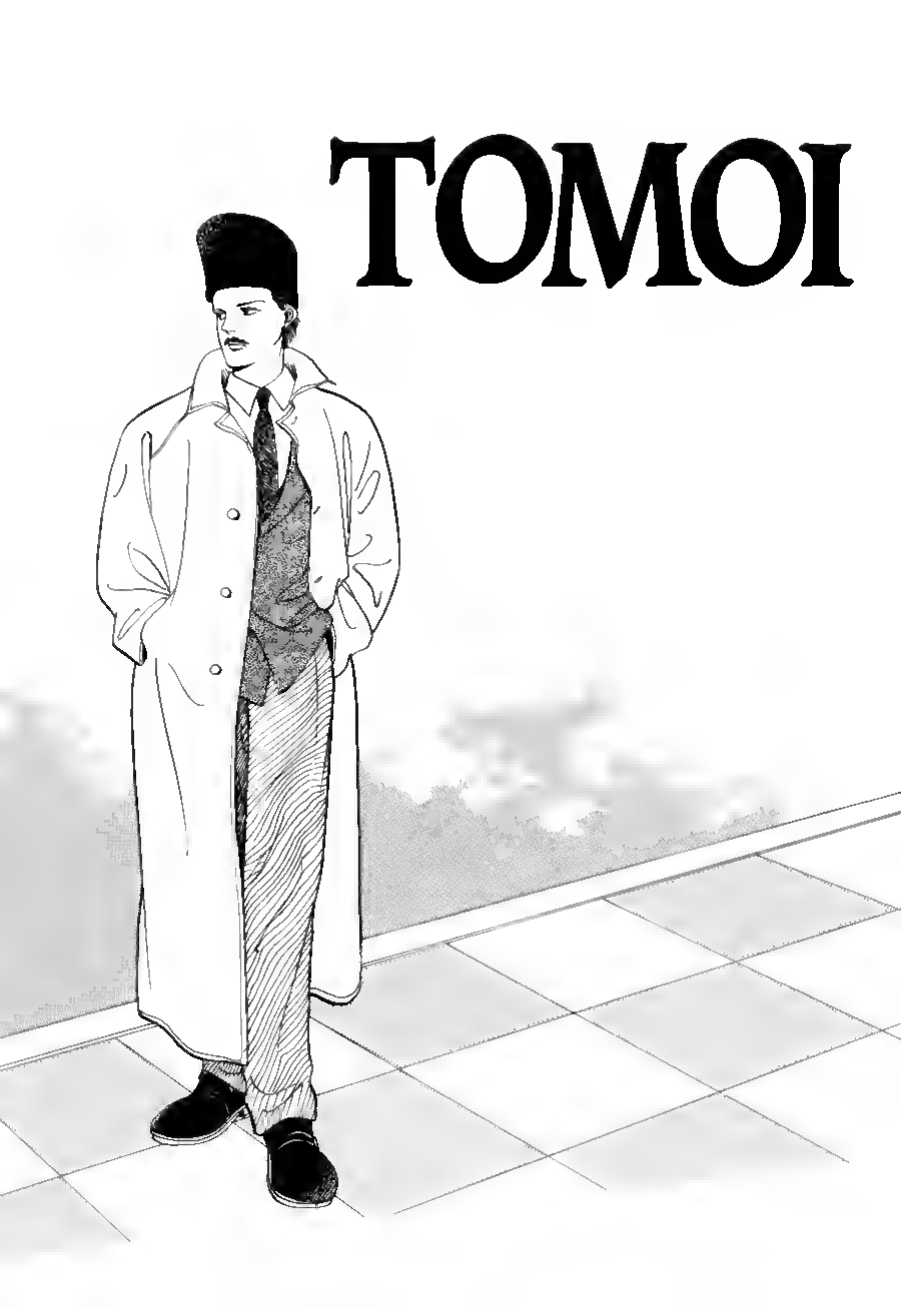
Commandments

- Honour thy scanlation group.
Thou shalt not covet thy scanlation
group's links without offering
proper credit to HotCakes.

- Thou shalt not profit from the
HotCakes group's hard work.
And neither shalt we or any living
being upon Earth other than the highly
esteemed original creator
of any project we shine our light upon.

- Shalt it so happen that any licensing
befalls a project Hotcakes is laboring
with any distribution shalt be banned
and links will be removed.

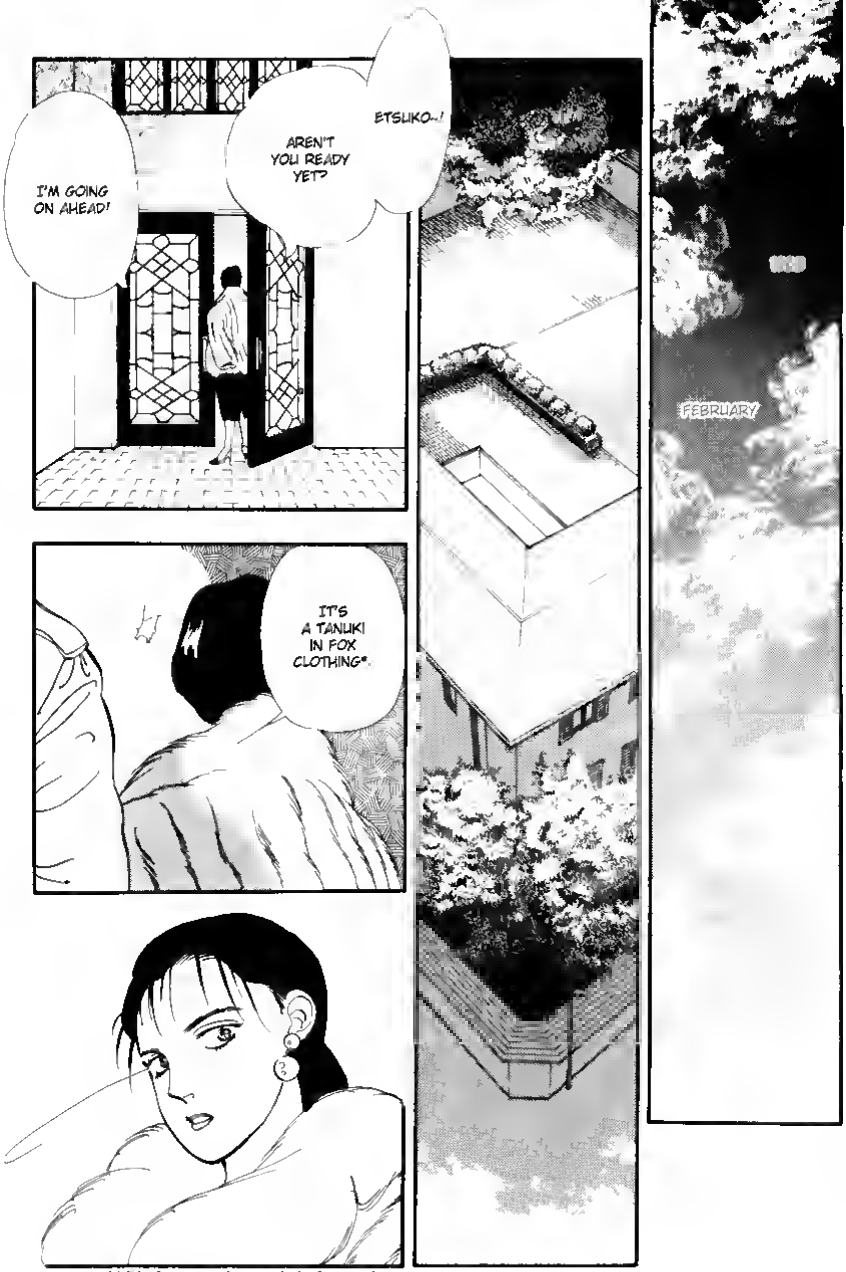
TOMOI



Chicken or Beef?

Beef, Please
ANOTHER MEAL?

SLEEPING AND EATING ARE THE ONLY THINGS THERE ARE TO DO
I CAN'T STAND THE FLIGHT FROM NEW YORK TO TOKYO.



*T/N. In Japanese culture, both the fox and the tanuki (raccoon-dog) are seen as sly tricksters.

CLATTER
YO
E..
E..
WHAT IS IT, MAKIKO..?
CHAA-CHAN IS BACK!
ETSU-KOOOO!
ETSU-KO!
ETSU-KO!

OH MY GOD!
CHAA-CHAN!
IT'S CHAA-CHAN!
CHAA-CHAN!
Shock
HMPH
YOU'RE LIKE WALKING CARBON MONOXIDE!
JAPAN'S AIR SUPPLY IS IN PERIL ONCE AGAIN!
Ecck! Ecck!
D... DOESN'T HE SEEM A BIT MORE DISINGENUOUS NOW?
I'm scared
THEY HAVEN'T GROWN UP ANY

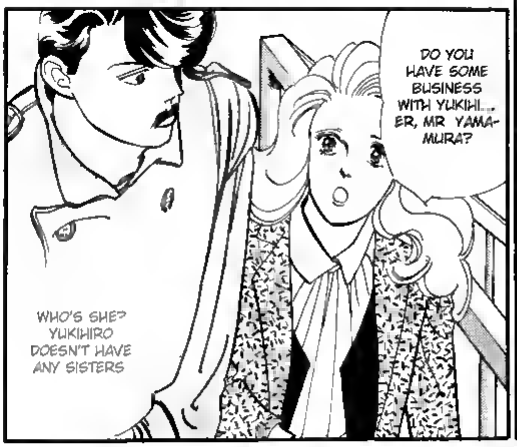
YOU'RE RIGHT... HE'S EASILY INFLUENCED,
AND I CAN SEE THAT WHATEVER FRIENDS HE HAD WERE NASTY
HE MUST'VE BEEN HANGING AROUND A REAL MEAN CROWD
Flomp
I DON'T HAVE ANY REAL BUSINESS HERE, IS ALL
HISATSUGU, WHAT'S GOING ON?!
YOU COULD'VE AT LEAST CALLED TO TELL US YOU WERE COMING!
CHAA-CHAN, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
A FRIEND'S...
CHAA-CHAN!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH A MUSTACHE?!
IT'S REPULSIVE!

Author's Note: Chako-chan is a nickname for Hisako-chan. As such Hisatsugu becomes Hisa-chan which then becomes Chaa-chan.

HOW MANY MONTHS HAS IT BEEN SINCE I'VE SEEN MY ADORABLE LITTLE YUKIHIRO?
HAR-RUMPH!
I HAD SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO DISCUSS...!
HE'S SUCH A FUN TARGET.
ONCE WE RELINITE, I'LL SEE TO IT THAT HE'S PICKED ON, TEASED, TORMENTED AND BULLIED.
THAT'LL HELP KEEP MY MIND OFF MY BROKEN HEART

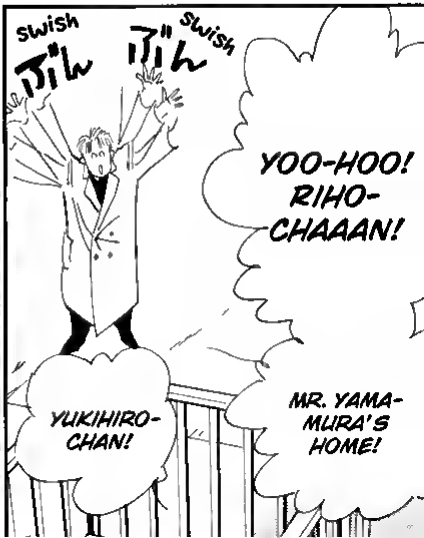
YOU ON YOUR WAY HOME FROM WORK?
AAAH, I'M FREEZING!
cling?
AI-CHAN!
RIHO-KOOOO!
*On bag: [...]shou
HEHE! TO YUKIHIRO'S PLACE!
I MAKE HIM DINNER EVERY NIGHT♡. TONIGHT WE'LL BE HAVING HAMBURGERS!
WHERE ARE YOU HEADED, RIHOKO?
*On bag: [...]shou
PSH! I'LL BE GRADUATING NEXT MONTH, YOU KNOW!
AAAAAH! IS IT REALLY OK FOR A TEACHER AND A STUDENT TO HAVE THAT KIND OF RELATIONSHIP?!
*On bag: Kakushou

EEEH?! YOU LIAR THE FACT THAT YOU WANT TO GO IS WRITTEN ALL OVER YOUR FACE!
NO ONE WOULD WANT TO GO TO THAT WEDDING!
TRUST ME, I DON'T WANT TO.
UGH TEACHERS WHO HIT ON STUDENTS ARE THE WORST KIND OF SCUM
KEEP SAYING THINGS LIKE THAT AND I WON'T INVITE YOU TO OUR WEDDING, AI-CHAN!
OOOOH?
LOOKS LIKE "WE" HAVE A VISITOR.
AI-CHAN?
GUESS SO.
SEE YOU LATER, RIHOKO.
BYEEEE!
YOU'RE SO WARM THAT IT'S HARD TO LET YOU GO.



A KEY TO THE APARTMENT?!

*On bag: Yonwa Supermarket



Top
すだ
thud
grab
かしっ
URK!
Kyaaaaaa!
きゃあああ
Pucker
ちゅぱっ
I CAME TO SEE YOU... TODAY...
TOMOI-SAN! WHEN DID YOU COME BACK TO JAPAN?

SIMMER
SIMMER
WHO'S THAT, BY THE WAY?
THE CHESTY, VAPID-LOOKING GIRL OVER THERE, I MEAN. SHE APPEARS TO BE IN THE BOTTOM 25% AS FAR AS BRAINS GO
That was close! He almost got my cheek
OH! LIM, RIHO-CHAN, TOMOI-SAN IS A FRIEND OF MINE FROM COLLEGE.
HE'S BEEN WORKING IN NEW YORK
Shake shake
OOOOH?
TOMOI-SAAAAAN!
YOU SAY SHE'S YOUR GIRLFRIEND?
PISSED
YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT? SURELY SHE JUST KEEPS INVITING HERSELF OVER BECAUSE SHE CAN'T SEE WHAT A BURDEN SHE IS.

I CAN'T BELIEVE YUKIHIRO ACTUALLY LAID HIS HANDS ON A STUDENT... AND A DUMB ONE, AT THAT.
We were supposed to be having hamburgers today
but that guy brought over ingredients for sukiyaki
I-I'M NOT...!
blush
THE FACT THAT I'M AN UNEXPECTED GUEST DOESN'T GIVE YOU THE RIGHT TO WEAR BLATANT DISPLEASURE ALL OVER YOUR FACE.
UH, YES
YOUR NAME'S RIHO-CHAN OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT, RIGHT?
simmer
AAAH, THAT FELT GREAT
WHAT A JERK! WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS?!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO MAKE EXCUSES.

THIS ISN'T FUNNY!
Kyaa!
Kyaa!
Hahaha!
BETWEEN ME AND PICKING ON YUKIHIRO.
I NEVER IMAGINED THERE'D BE AN OBSTACLE.
"GOOD BYE."
"I'M GOING BACK TO GERMANY," HE SAID.
"I LOVED YOU."

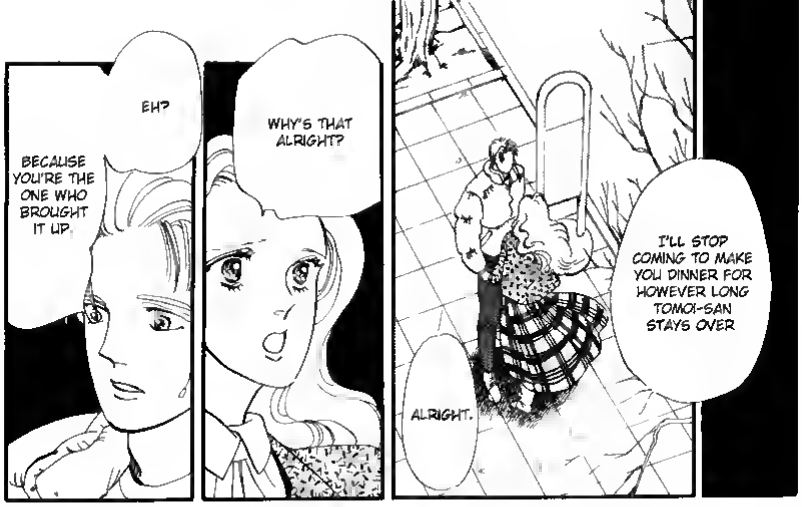
YOU'RE STAYING AT MY PLACE?!
A PERSON'S HAPPINESS CAN QUICKLY TURN TO PAINFUL SORROW
I GUESS THAT'S FINE
BEER
I COULD NEVER REST.
YEAH. THE WOMEN AT HOME ARE TOO MUCH OF A NUISANCE.
WHY DON'T WE
SLEEP IN THE SAME BED?
PLEASE USE THE BED
IN THIS ROOM, TOMOI-SAN
I'LL SLEEP UNDER THE KOTATSU*.

*T/N. A kotatsu is a low table covered by a heated blanket.

COME ON IN, YUKIHIRO

BWAH HAHAHA! TOMOI-SAAAN!
かしん

HMPH! I'LL JUST HAVE TO PICK ON THE BOTH OF THEM AT ONCE
HE'S JUST KIDDING, RIHO-CHAN.
YU... YUKIHI...


EH?
BECAUSE YOU'RE THE ONE WHO BROUGHT IT UP.
WHY'S THAT ALRIGHT?
I'LL STOP COMING TO MAKE YOU DINNER FOR HOWEVER LONG TOMOI-SAN STAYS OVER
ALRIGHT.

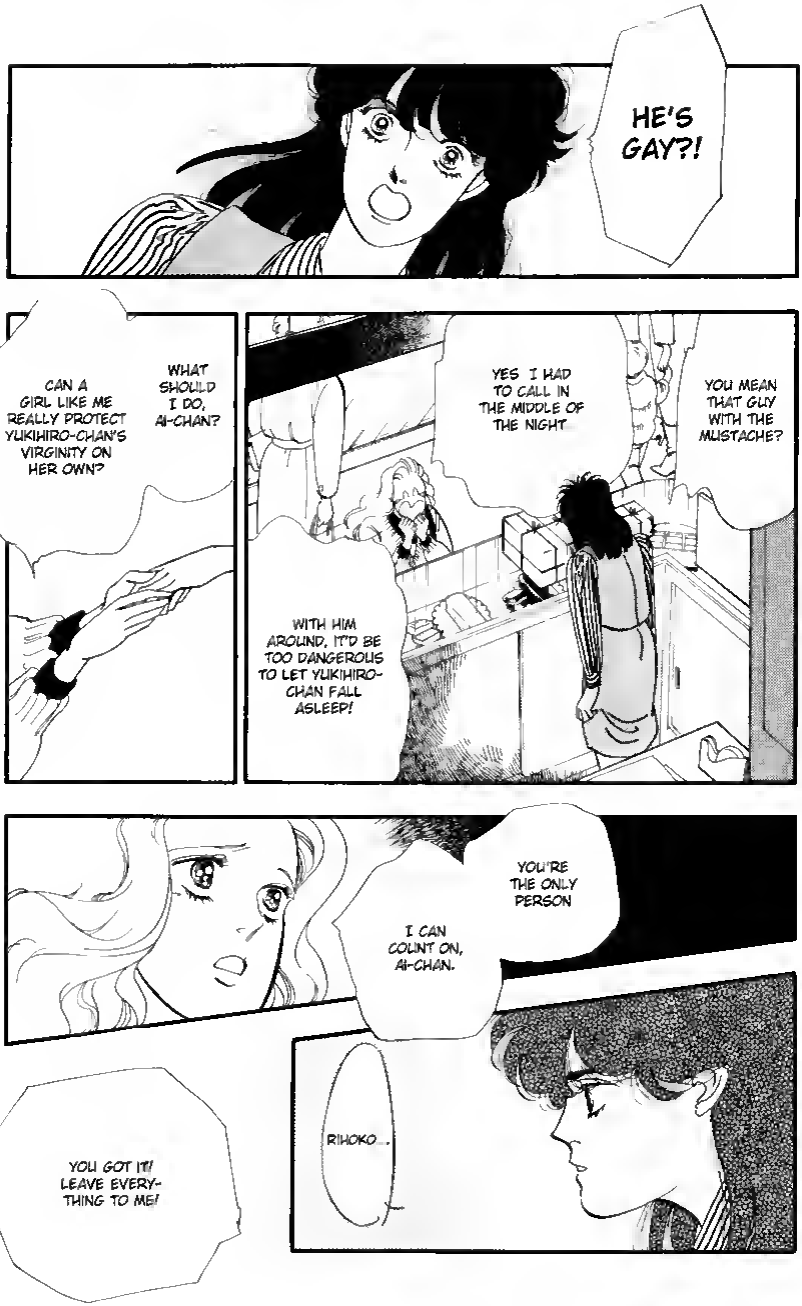
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT TO DO, IT'S FINE BY ME.

DOES ASPARAGUS SOUND OK?
I'LL WHIP YOU UP A SNACK.
OH, SORRY
BEER
I HELPED MYSELF TO SOME WHISKEY.

DID YOU GET HOMESICK?
TO TAKE A BREAK, I SUPPOSE
WHY DO YOU THINK I CAME BACK TO JAPAN?
THE PERSON I BROKE UP WITH
WAS A MAN.
CRASH
ゴトッ
AH, I SEE.
BUT WE BROKE UP I NEEDED SOMEONE TO TALK TO.
I WAS DATING SOMEONE
WE EVEN LIVED TOGETHER.

W-WAIT A MINUTE! TOMOI-SAN, PLEASE!
HE WAS A BIT LIKE YOU.
Pick-up line!
YOU CAN'T TURN DOWN AN OLD FRIEND.
Riiiing
YUKIHIRO-CHAAAN!
IT'S ME! I MADE IT HOME ALRI...

UM...
UH... NO, I MEAN...
AAAAAAH! RIHO-CHAN! THANK GOD!
YUKIHIRO.
Shock
I'M GOING TO BED
I'M STILL JET-LAGGED.
AAAH. THIS IS SO MUCH FUN!
HE HE
HE
I CAN FEEL MY EMOTIONAL PAIN SLOWLY HEALING ALREADY.


HE'S GAY?!
WHAT SHOULD I DO, AI-CHAN?
CAN A GIRL LIKE ME REALLY PROTECT YUKIHIRO-CHAN'S VIRGINITY ON HER OWN?
YES I HAD TO CALL IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT
YOU MEAN THAT GUY WITH THE MUSTACHE?
WITH HIM AROUND, IT'D BE TOO DANGEROUS TO LET YUKIHIRO-CHAN FALL ASLEEP!
YOU'RE THE ONLY PERSON I CAN COUNT ON, AI-CHAN.
RIHOKO...
YOU GOT IT! LEAVE EVERY-THING TO ME!

YOU'RE BOTH STAYING OVER?!
SO I DECIDED TO STAY OVER AT AI-CHAN'S PLACE!
YUP! THIRD YEARS AREN'T REQUIRED TO SHOW UP AT SCHOOL THIS TIME OF YEAR*,
LOOKS LIKE OUR LITTLE PARTY HAS INCREASED BY ONE TESTOSTERONE-LADEN GIRL SURE IS GETTING LIVELY
Yukihiro's clothes
NO PROBLEMS HERE! MY FOLKS NEVER MEDDLE IN WHAT I DO
YUKIHIRO IS A TEACHER
HE CAN'T BE SEEN LETTING STUDENTS STAY THE NIGHT
The "Don't Get Your Hopes Up" Look
The "Oh, thank God!" Look

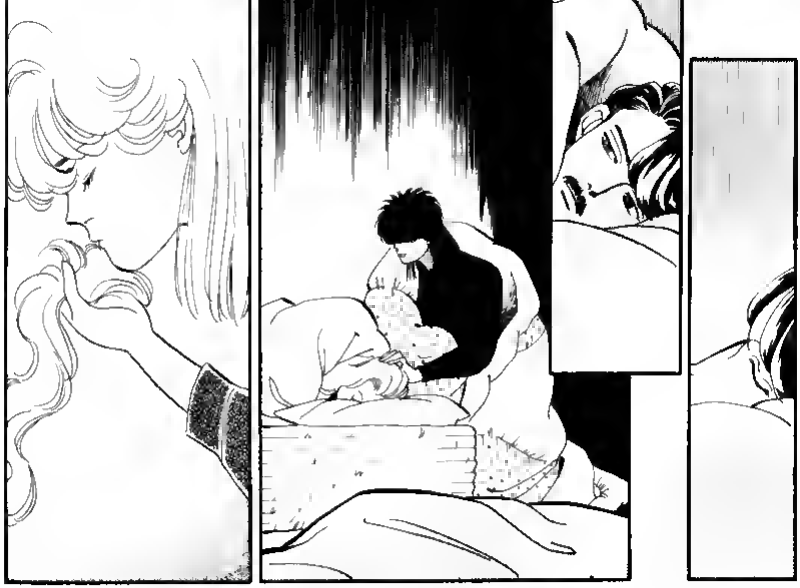
*T/N: Some Japanese high schools allow students to be late or choose not to attend around the time finals are taken

WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, PERVERT?!
SOMEDAY, YOU'LL REGRET SAYING THAT TO HIS FACE...
WE WON'T BE ANY TROUBLE. BESIDES, I'M THE ONE WHO FIRST DEVELOPED A CRUSH ON HIM.
OH!
I'D SAY THAT WAS DIS-CRIMINATION
STUPID GIRL
I'VE GOT A CARVING KNIFE...
I'M NOT SCARED OF YOUR VEGETABLE KNIFE!
BA-THUMP
AAAAH! HE MAKES ME SO ANGRY!
RI.. RIHO-CHAN! CALM DOWN!
COME AT ME! BRING IT OOOON!
BAM
BAM
BAM

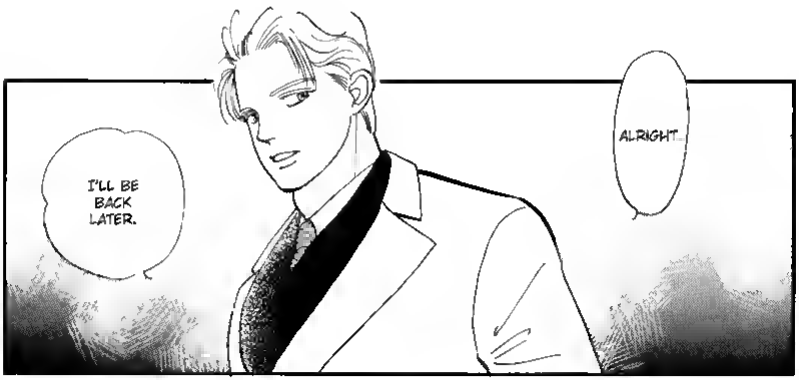
CLANG
AH HAHA. WHOOPS! DROPPED IT.
.....
RIHOKO, YOU AND MR. YAMAMURA SLEEP IN THE BEDROOM.
ME AND THIS GUY HERE WILL TAKE THE ROOM WITH THE KOTATSU.
sofa bed
THAT'S A STRANGE SET-UP. USUALLY THE ROOMS ARE SEPARATED ACCORDING TO GENDER IN SITUATIONS LIKE THIS.
NOW WHAT .?
YOU OF ALL PEOPLE DON'T GET A SAY IN WHAT'S "USUAL!"
RATTLE

ARE YOU REALLY A HOMO?
WHY?
DO YOU LIKE YAMAMURA?
WHY?
.....
NOW THEN
I'M NOT ONE TO BACK DOWN SO EASILY
AH! HEY!
がら
Rattle

A LITTLE MIDNIGHT WRESTLING. I SEE
OOH?
THE MASKED YUKIHIRO
SHOWS OFF SOME NIMBLE FOOT-WORK!
DYNAMITE RIHOKO
IS UP ON THE FIRST COUNT!
Smirk
MY SPECIALTY LIES IN PINNING THE OPPONENT
SHE'S UP ON ONE!
HE'S UP ON TWO!



JUST AS I THOUGHT WE'RE TWO OF A KIND
HMPH


I'LL BE BACK LATER.
ALRIGHT...

SEE YOU SOON.
KYA! ♡ I FEEL LIKE YOUR WIFE.
HAVE A GREAT DAY!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO MY POOR YUKIHIRO-CHAN?!
MM!
Kyaaaaaa!
キャあぁーっ
AAAH, WAIT! LET ME WALK YOU OUT
AH HAHAHA... WELL... I'M OFF...

WHAT?!
SIGH
WHAT ABOUT MY FEELINGS?
WHY DON'T YOU STOP HIM!
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS SAY NO!
WELL...
WHEN I THINK OF HIS FEELINGS..
IT'S OK. I LIKE THAT ABOUT YOU
I'M SORRY I KNOW IT'S WEAK OF ME

WHY DON'T WE JOIN FORCES?
EH?
WE DO HAVE SIMILAR INTERESTS, AFTER ALL.
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU ATTEND A GIRLS' SCHOOL, RIGHT?
WE HAD YOUR TYPE AROUND THE BOYS' SCHOOL AS WELL.
WHAT'RE YOU TRYING TO SAY?
YOU'RE NOT THE TYPE WHO CAN KEEP GOING ON THIS WAY
WITHOUT WANTING TO HOLD HANDS
OR WANTING TO STEAL A KISS

I WON'T TAKE PART IN SOMETHING THAT'LL ONLY SERVE TO MAKE RIHOKO MISERABLE!
WHAT ABOUT YOUR OWN HAPPINESS?
YUKIHIRO IS A THORN IN YOUR SIDE, IS HE NOT?
ALL I WANT IS TO SEE RIHOKO SMILE!
FOUND OUT I'VE BEEN DATING YUKIHIRO!
MOTHER AND FATHER

EH?!
WHEN I WENT HOME TO GRAB A CHANGE OF CLOTHES, MY FATHER WAS ALREADY EXTREMELY ANGRY WITH ME.
WHAT SHOULD WE DO? EVERYONE'S OPPOSED TO STUDENTS DATING TEACHERS.
HOW SHOULD I KNOW. . .?
WE'VE WORKED SO HARD TO BE SECRETIVE UP UNTIL NOW . .
IT WOULD SEEM THAT SOMEONE WITH A WOMAN'S VOICE CALLED THE HOUSE AND TIPPED THEM OFF
WHAT'LL WE DO IF THEY FIND OUT I'VE BEEN STAYING HERE, TOO?
RIHOKO.
THE TWO OF US SHOULD SLEEP IN THE BED TOGETHER FROM NOW ON. I'M SICK OF US ALL SLEEPING IN ONE ROOM
BUT IF WE DO THAT, WHAT'LL BE THE PURPOSE OF MY BEING HERE AT ALL?

Printed in the October 1986 issue of Petite Flower

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Akinato Wakuni

Volume 1

Ch-2

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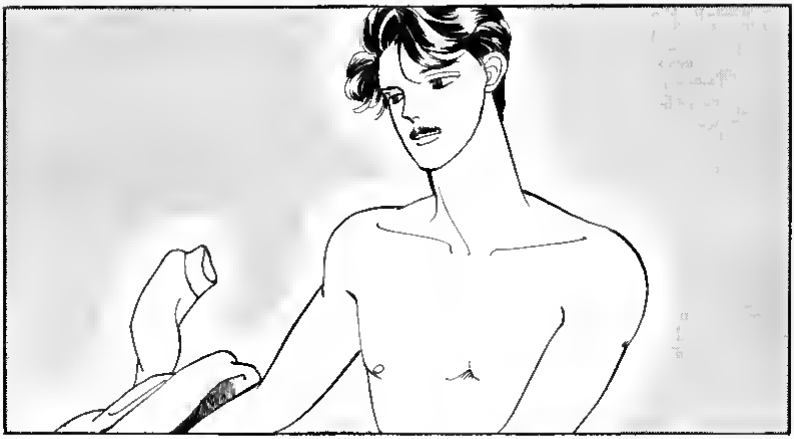
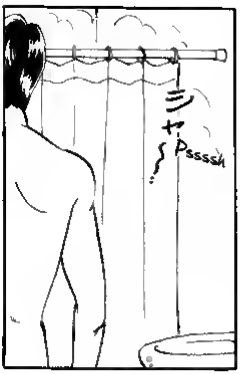
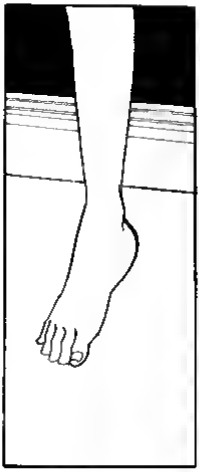




ALL HE NEEDS IS A LITTLE PUSH! HERE GOES!



THAT TELLS ME HE'S GOT THE RIGHT DISPOSITION

WHETHER I'M HOLDING HIS HAND OR KISSING HIM, YUKIHIRO NEVER SHOWS ANY SIGNIFICANT DISGUST

SWISH
YUKIHIRO-CHAN?
Riho-chaaan!
BANG
WHAT'S WRONG?!

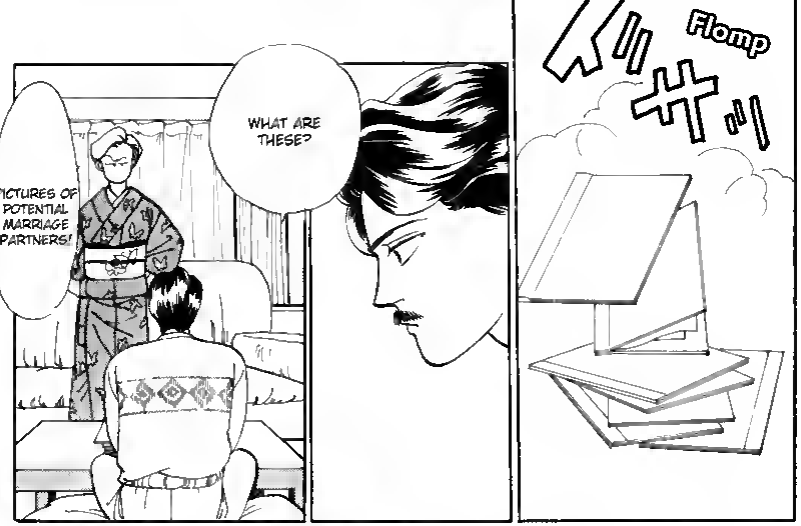
AGH, SICK! DON'T SHOW ME THAT!
KYAAAAAA!
OH MY GOD, WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!
KYAAA!
KYAAA! KYAAA!

LOOKS LIKE WE'LL ALL BE SLEEPING TOGETHER AGAIN, AFTER ALL.

Smirk
A LONG, LONG TIME AGO.
I SAID GOOD BYE TO VIRGI-NITY AND CHASTITY
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU DID THAT.

YOU SHOULD GIVE RIHOKO'S PARENTS ANOTHER CALL TOMORROW.
Poomf
ぽほっ
ENOUGH!
TAKE A STAND!
O.K...
AH HAHAHA...
THIS HAPPENED BECAUSE YOU PASS EVERYTHING OFF WITH A LAUGH, YUKIHIRO-CHAN!

Close the door!
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
YOU CAME ALL THE WAY BACK TO JAPAN AND ALL YOU'VE DONE SO FAR, IS TO BUM AROUND
I'VE BEEN STAYING WITH A FRIEND
CHAA-CHAN!
WHAT'S HIS NAME?
AH! LAST TIME I WAS HERE THIS LITTLE GUY WAS STILL SPLASHING AROUND IN YOUR STOMACH
OOOOH?
YOU BETTER NOT GO NEAR FATHER. HE'S BEEN LEARNING HYPNOSIS.
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO FEEL
HE'S BEEN LONELY SINCE YOU LEFT!
I DIDN'T PICK THAT NAME! IT WAS FATHER!
MY POOR BABY IS CURSED NOW! WON'T YOU DO SOMETHING?!
HISATSUGU!



T/N. Arranged marriages weren't terribly uncommon back in the day

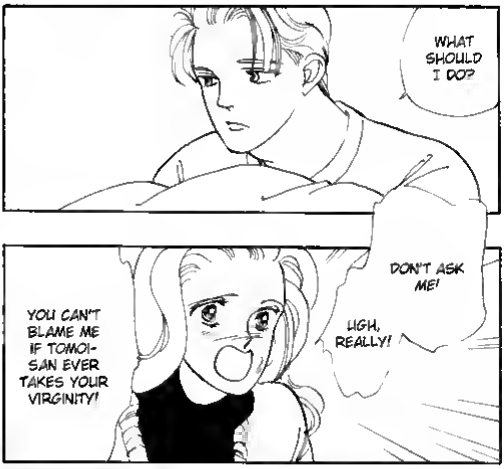
YOU'VE FORCED MY HAND WHAT KIND OF A HEARTLESS CHILD GOES ABROAD AND DOESN'T CALL HOME EVEN ONCE?
YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY FROM ME THIS TIME! LEARN TO ACCEPT THAT!
I WON'T LET YOU TAKE SOME BLONDE FOREIGNER FOR A WIFE!
WE'RE SETTLING THIS ONCE AND FOR ALL!
SHOW A LITTLE DEVOTION TO YOUR FAMILY!

I WOULDN'T MIND IT SO MUCH IF I COULD MARRY A MAN
MARRIAGE, HUH...?
HISA-TSUGU
It could never last if up for those women
YOU WANT TO FIND A MARRIAGE PARTNER!
FATHER.
YOU WANT TO FIND A MARRIAGE PARTNER!
YOU WANT TO FIND A MARRIAGE PARTNER!

KEEP OVER-WORKING YOUR BRAIN LIKE THAT, AND YOU'LL GO BALD
woooosh
.....
SIR, YOU HAVE A CALL FROM MIHARA-SAMA.
MIHARA? IT'S BEEN A WHILE
HOW ARE YOU DOING?
Eh?!
YOU WANT TO TAKE HISATSUGU AS YOUR SON-IN-LAW?!

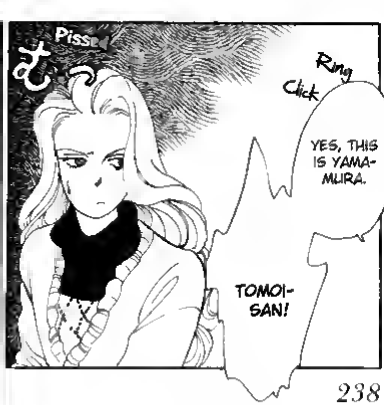
I WANTED TO SAVE THAT FOR AFTER YOU'VE GRADUATED, RIHO-CHAN
I DON'T KNOW...
YUKIHIRO-CHAN..
YOU SHOULD GO TO MY PARENTS AND ASK FOR MY HAND IN MARRIAGE

RIHO-CHAN..
I WON'T GO SO FAR AS TO DEFEND YOUR ANUS TO THE DEATH, YUKIHIRO-CHAN!
Ring Ring Ring
Boom


WHAT SHOULD I DO?
DON'T ASK ME!
HIGH, REALLY!
YOU CAN'T BLAME ME IF TOMOI-SAN EVER TAKES YOUR VIRGINITY!

I WON'T LET YOU LEAVE TODAY.

SPEAK OF THE DEVIL AND HE'S BOUND TO APPEAR! I REALLY HATE THAT GUY!


Pisse
Ring
Click
YES, THIS IS YAMAMURA.
TOMOI-SAN!

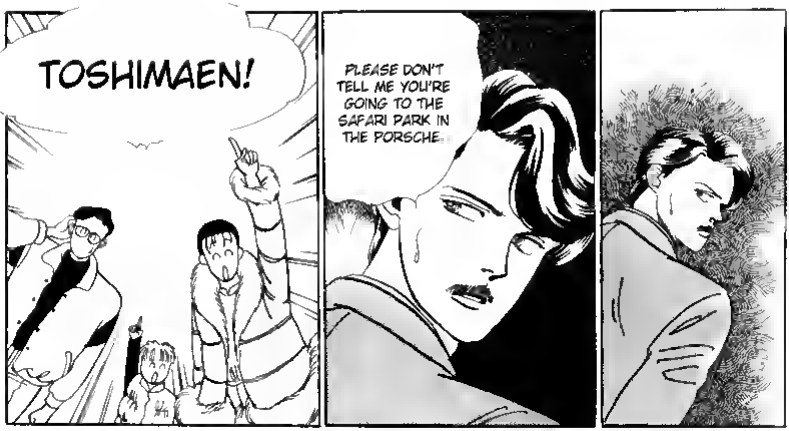
YEAH, I'LL CALL AGAIN LATER.
I WENT HOME TO GRAB SOME THINGS,
BUT NOW MY PARENTS WON'T LET ME GO.
Graaaab
I'M KIDDING.
click
I LOVE YOU, YUKIHIRO.
SO THAT HOMO WON'T BE COMING BY TONIGHT.
I SEE...
RIHO-CHAN, WAIT!
GOOD BYE, INDECISIVE MR YAMAMURA!
THAT MEANS I CAN GO HOME, TOO!

FATHER!
EH?!
OPEN
LIVING TOGE...?
NO, WE'RE NOT !
UM
SO IT'S TRUE.
YOU'VE BEEN LIVING TOGETHER...!
FATHER, THIS IS ALL A MISUNDER-STANDING!
NO EX-CUSES!
COME ON, RIHOKO!

NOW, YOU LISTEN TO ME!
RIHOKO'S MY ONLY DAUGHTER! THE ALL-IMPORTANT SUCCESSOR TO THE FAMILY LINE!
DON'T THINK FOR ONE SECOND THAT I'M GIVING HER UP TO A MERE ENGLISH TEACHER LIKE YOU!
YUKIHIRO-CHAN!
RIHO-CHAN!
FATHER!
DON'T CALL ME FATHER!
COME ON, RIHOKO!

WELL, IF IT'S ONLY MEETING WITH MARRIAGE PROSPECTS, OUT OF RESPECT FOR MY PARENTS I'LL GO AS OFTEN AS THEY WANT ME TO, WHETHER THAT MEANS 100 OR EVEN 200 TIMES
ANYONE WHO WANTS ME FOR A SON-IN-LAW HAS GOT SOME GUTS
BE SURE TO MIND YOUR MANNERS ON YOUR DATE
UNDER-STAND, CHAA-CHAN?
YES, MOTHER.
LET'S SEE, WHERE'S THE KEY TO THE BMW...?
YOU CAN'T TAKE THE BMW!
♪ It's really Really Really Really A lion! Aaaah ♪
DOZA!
S SHE'S TAKING THE BMW TO A SAFARI PARK?!
MY FAMILY AND I ARE USING IT!
WE'RE GOING TO THE SAFARI PARK!
MY FAMILY GETS THE PORSCHE!
OH WELL, I'LL TAKE THE PORSCHE...

*T/N. This is an old theme song for Fuji Safari Park.



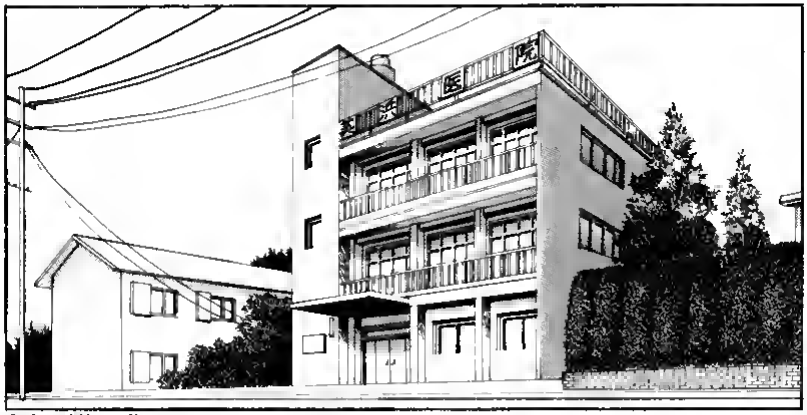
T/N. Toshimaen is an amusement park in Tokyo

Your Uncle Hisatsugu is meeting a marriage candidate today! Can you believe it?!
Come on, Hisatsugu Jr, let's leave the rest to Grandma
TH...

*2 From 83, back when putting side mirrors on the car door wasn't yet common

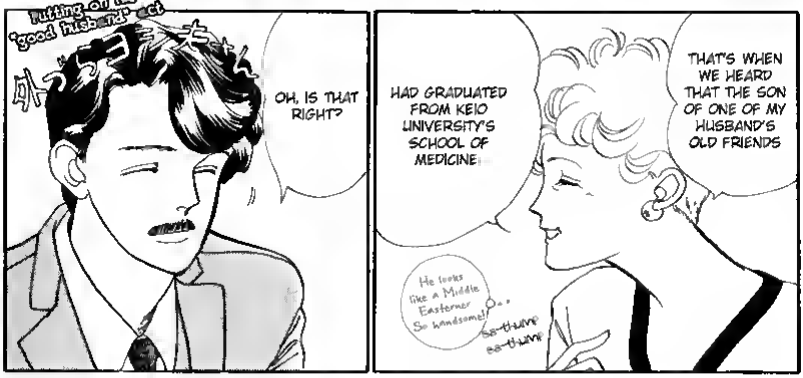
VROOOOOM
SNAP
SNAP
SNAP
GRIP
KYAAAAA!
IF YOU THINK YOU CAN TELL A PERSON WITH TYPE O BLOOD NOT TO DRIVE WHILE EMOTIONAL, YOU'RE DREAMING.*
CHAA-CHAN! DON'T DRIVE WHILE YOU'RE STILL EMOTIONAL!

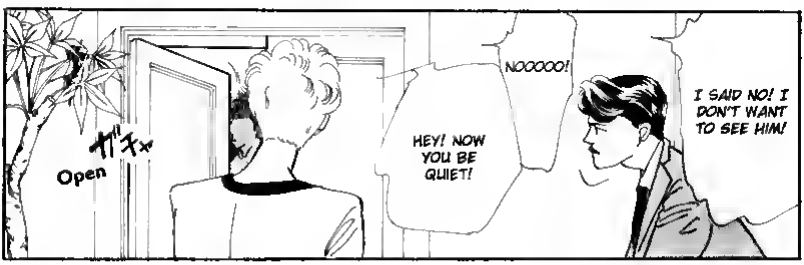
*T/N. In Japanese culture it is said your personality is determined by your blood type. One of the traits of an O is a passionate disposition.

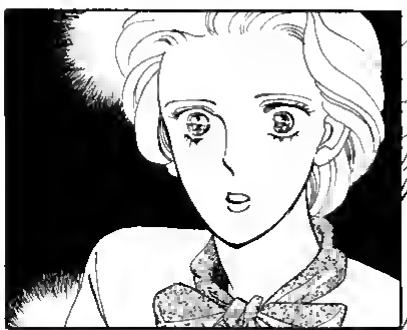


On Signs: Mihama Clinic

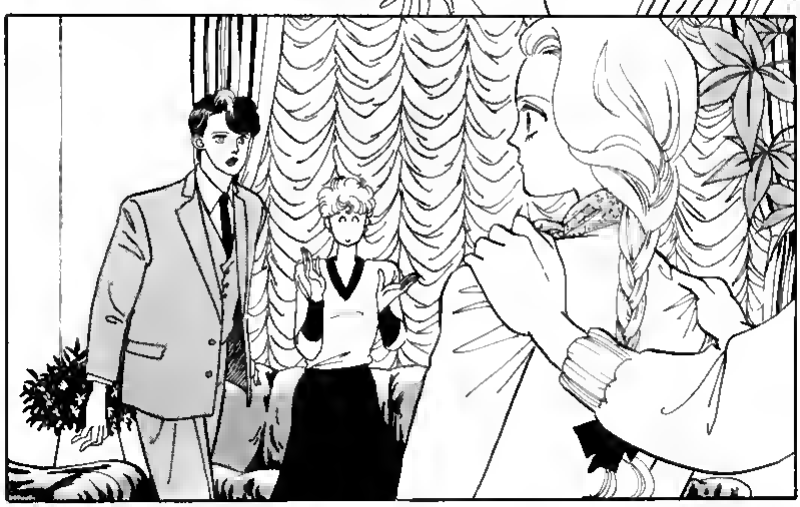
I HEAR YOU'RE WORKING AT A HOSPITAL IN NEW YORK, HISATSUGU-SAN
YES.
AS YOU CAN SEE, WE HAVE A MEDICAL PRACTICE OF OUR OWN,
BUT SINCE WE ONLY HAVE ONE DAUGHTER WE ALWAYS WANTED HER TO MARRY A DOCTOR


Putting on his "good husband" act
OH, IS THAT RIGHT?
THAT'S WHEN WE HEARD THAT THE SON OF ONE OF MY HUSBAND'S OLD FRIENDS
HAD GRADUATED FROM KEIO UNIVERSITY'S SCHOOL OF MEDICINE.
He looks like a Middle Easterner. So handsome! O...
So-there so-there

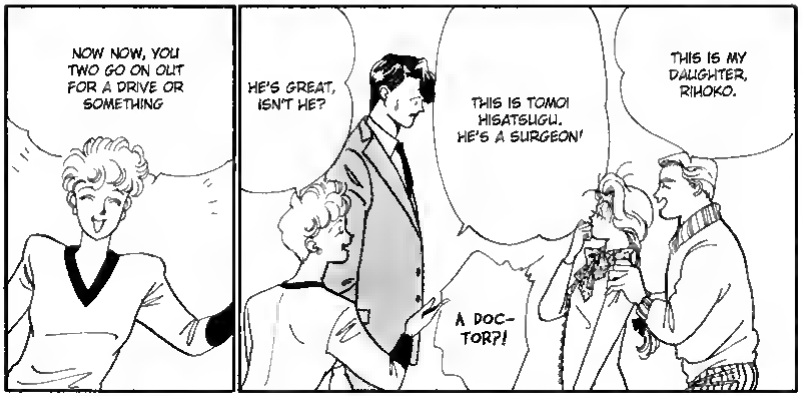

Open
HEY! NOW YOU BE QUIET!
NOOOOO!
I SAID NO! I DON'T WANT TO SEE HIM!

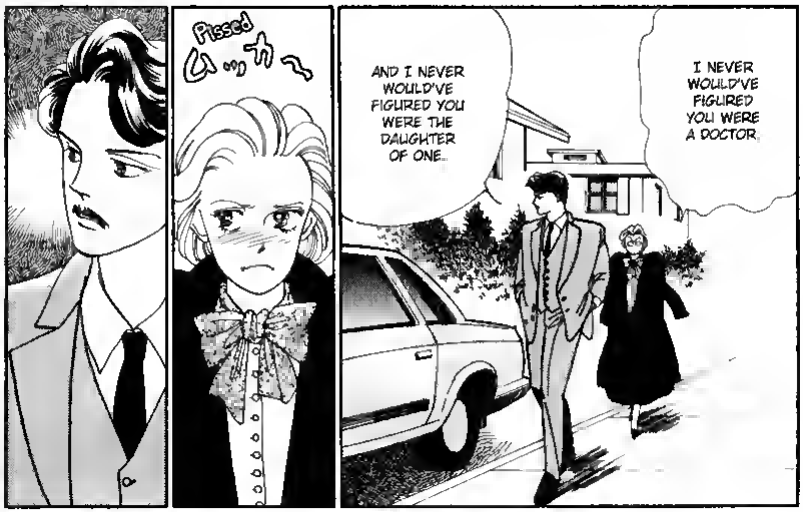


SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING.



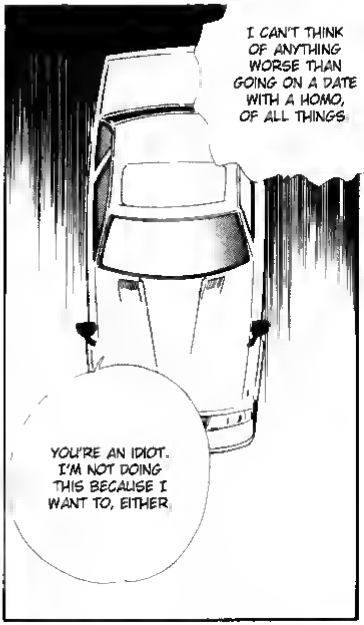
WHA...
WHA...
WHA...
WHA
WHA...

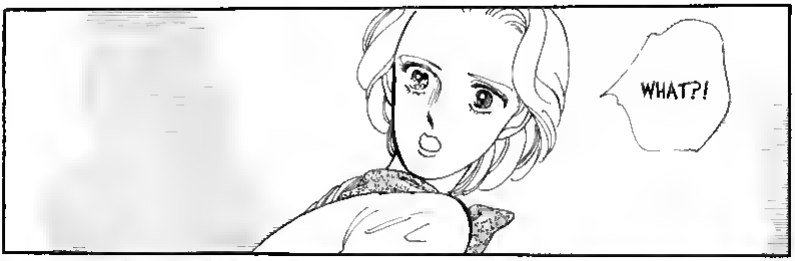

NOW NOW, YOU TWO GO ON OUT FOR A DRIVE OR SOMETHING
HE'S GREAT, ISN'T HE?
THIS IS TOMOI HISATSUGU. HE'S A SURGEON!
THIS IS MY DAUGHTER, RIHOKO.
A DOC-TOR?!


Pissed
AND I NEVER WOULD'VE FIGURED YOU WERE THE DAUGHTER OF ONE...
I NEVER WOULD'VE FIGURED YOU WERE A DOCTOR.

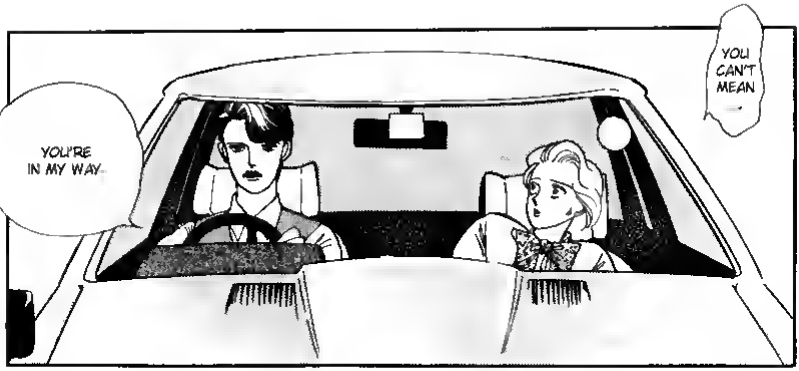
WHERE ARE WE GOING?
.....

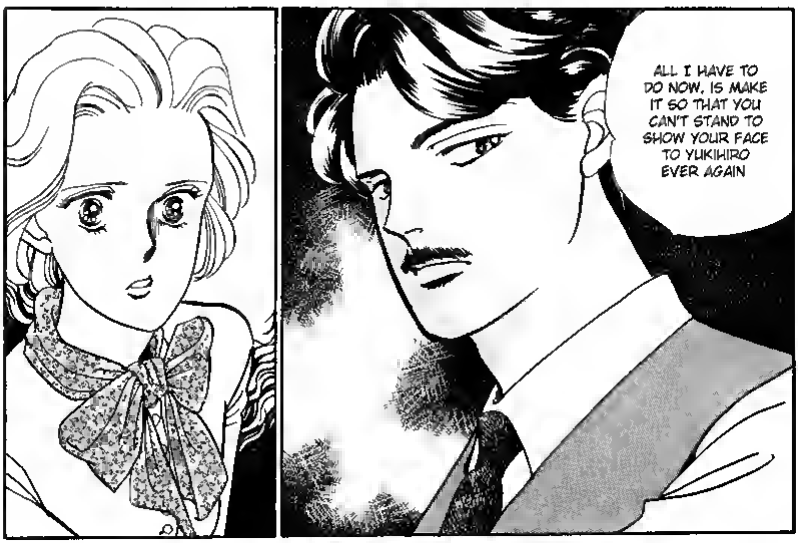
A LOVE HOTEL.

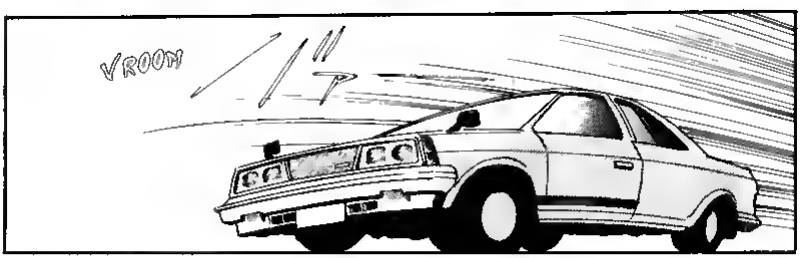

I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING WORSE THAN GOING ON A DATE WITH A HOMO, OF ALL THINGS.
YOU'RE AN IDIOT. I'M NOT DOING THIS BECAUSE I WANT TO, EITHER.


WHAT?!

DID YOU THINK YOU WERE SAFE FROM ME BECAUSE YOU'RE A WOMAN?


YOU'RE IN MY WAY.
YOU CAN'T MEAN ...


ALL I HAVE TO DO NOW, IS MAKE IT SO THAT YOU CAN'T STAND TO SHOW YOUR FACE TO YUKIHIRO EVER AGAIN


VROOM

AH!
AI-CHAN!
Screeeech
STOP
WAH! YOU IDIOT! NOT WHILE I'M DRIVING...!
BANG
AI-CHAN!
AI-CHAN!
BANG
RI-HOKO!

SLAM
BANG
DAMN IT...
EEEEH?!
I WAS FORCED TO SEE HIM AS A POTENTIAL MARRIAGE PARTNER!
HE'S TRYING TO RAPE ME!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH HIM?!
キャーっ
Kyaaaa!
RAPE YOU?!

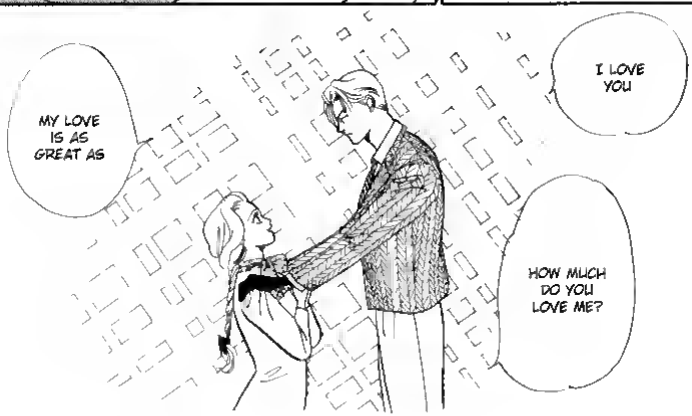
IT HAS TO BE THIS WAY
LET ME GO, I WANT TO TORMENT HER A LITTLE LONGER.
HEY, YOU!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!
I CAN'T EVEN GET IT UP FOR WOMEN!
ALL I DID WAS SCARE HER!
YOU'RE TELLING ME YOU HAVE TO RAPE A WOMAN?!
Check Check
Check Check
HERE'S RIHOKO'S COAT. HOLD ON TO IT.
DO YOU HAVE ANY PRIDE AT ALL AS A GAY MAN?!
I'VE LOST ALL RESPECT FOR YOU!
Baaaarl

WHAT'S WRONG? WERE YOU ASSAULTED?
HELP ME!
YUKIHIRO-CHAN!
RIHO-CHAN.
I WAS FORCED TO SEE A MARRIAGE PROSPECT! AND IT WAS TOMO!
EH?!
TOMOI-SAN TRIED TO TRAP ME IN HIS CAR AND TAKE ME TO A LOVE HOTEL.
HE WAS GOING TO RAPE ME,
SO I WOULDN'T BE A VIRGIN ANYMORE, AND WOULD BE TOO ASHAMED TO SHOW MY FACE TO YOU AGAIN

KYAAA! THERE HE IS!
I'M SORRY, OLD FRIEND!
Thud Thud Thud...
BOOM

RIHO-CHAN!
YUKIHI-RO-CHAN!
tumble
SLIDE
I'LL MAKE YOU MY WIFE, NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES!
I DON'T CARE ABOUT YOUR PARENTS' OPPOSITION
I LOVE YOU
OH, YOU'RE CUTE WHEN YOU'RE ANGRY, YUKIHIRO-CHAN. ♡
HUG

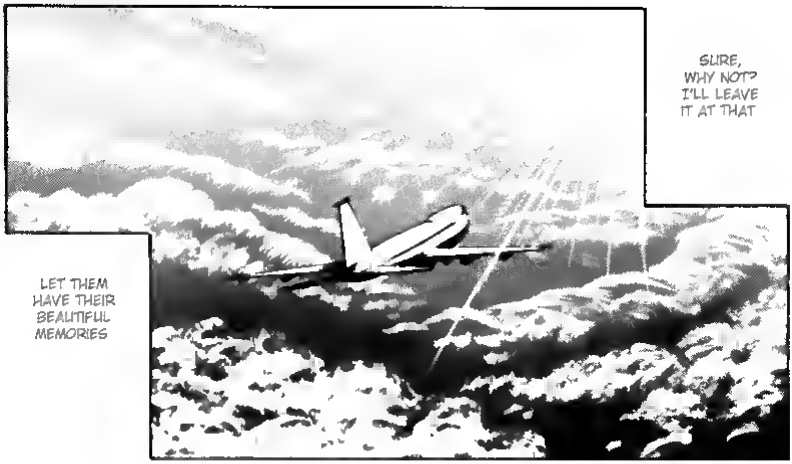
IT WAS CARELESS OF ME TO THINK THAT A GUY LIKE YUKIHIRO WOULD NEVER TRY TO KICK ME
AAH


I LOVE YOU
MY LOVE IS AS GREAT AS
HOW MUCH DO YOU LOVE ME?

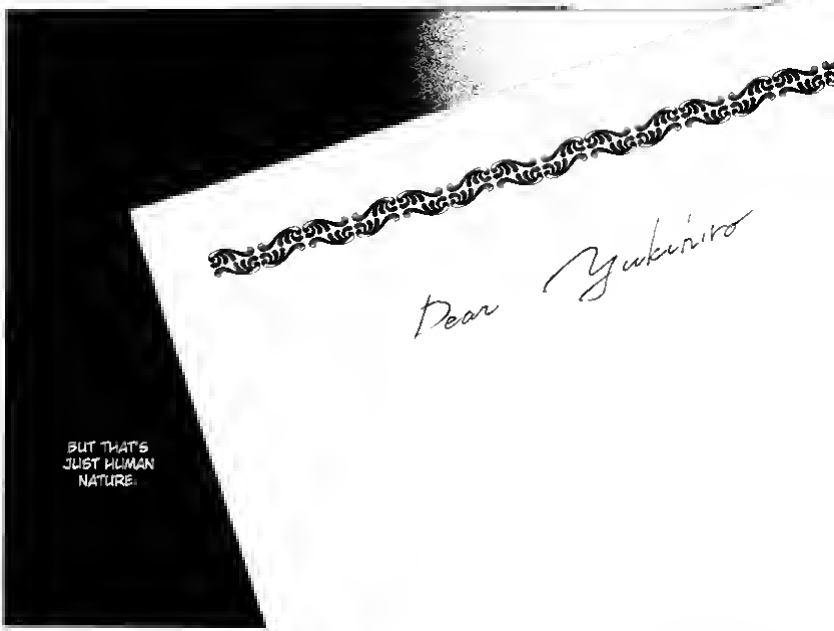
THE UNIVERSE, HUH...
THE UNIVERSE!
JEALOUS?
WAIT.
DID YOU..?

IN ORDER TO GET YUKIHIRO TO FINALLY TAKE SOME ACTION?
HAVE YOU BEEN STIRRING UP TROUBLE

Grin
にっこり
YUP!
THAT'S RIGHT


SURE, WHY NOT? I'LL LEAVE IT AT THAT
LET THEM HAVE THEIR BEAUTIFUL MEMORIES

WHILE MOST OF ME WANTS YOUR CONTINUED HAPPINESS, A SMALL PART OF ME STILL WISHES YOU MISERY.
IT'S NOT A VERY SATISFYING CONCLUSION FOR ME THOUGH, SO I'LL SEND A LOVE LETTER FROM NEW YORK EVERY DAY.



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Tomoi

Akisato Wakuni

Volume 1

Ch-3

HotCakes Presents

Credits:

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Editor: Stubborn Blob

ProofReader: Catriona

QCers: Synthoside, NightSwan & Altilye

If we go to hell, let's go together...

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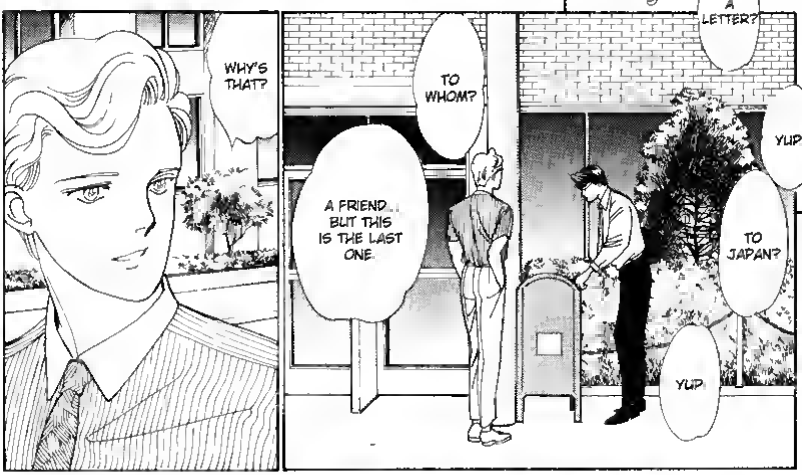
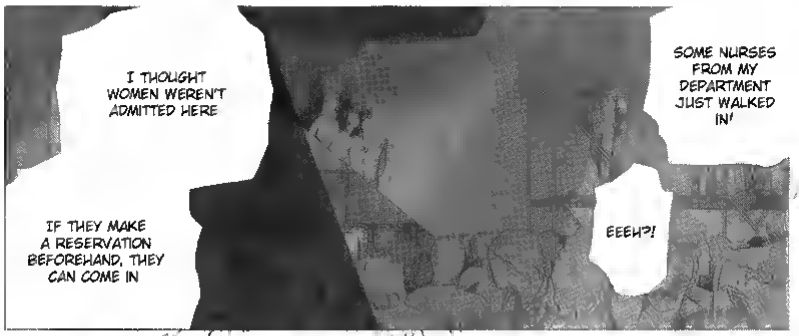

A LETTER?
YUP.
TO JAPAN?
YUP.
TO WHOM?
A FRIEND... BUT THIS IS THE LAST ONE.
WHY'S THAT?

I'M SO BUSY DATING YOU
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO MESS AROUND WITH IDIOTS ANYMORE.

Friend everybody
is a friend to nobody
Love sees no faults
There is no disputing about taste
DON'T SAY SUCH PATHETIC THINGS.
STAMINA IS EVERYTHING FOR A DOCTOR
MUST BE MY AGE
I GET TIRED SO QUICKLY THESE DAYS.
AAH, I'M EXHALISTED!

OH NO! MARVIN, HIDE!
WHAT'S WRONG, MOY?
SHOCK

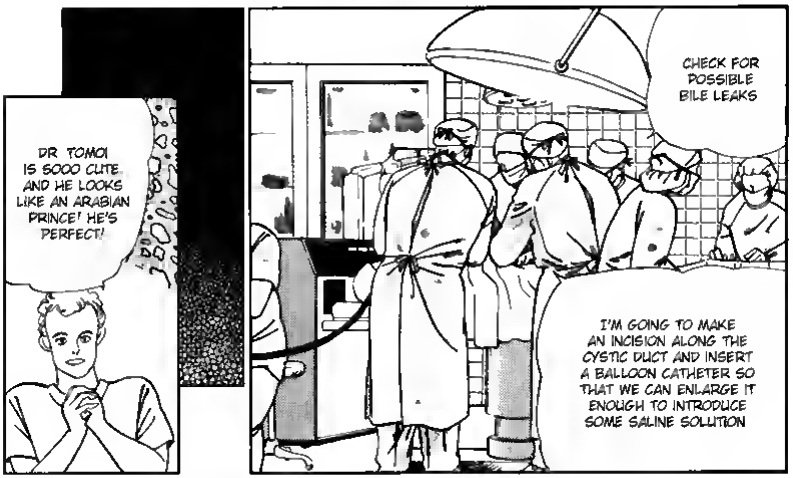

I THOUGHT WOMEN WEREN'T ADMITTED HERE
IF THEY MAKE A RESERVATION BEFOREHAND, THEY CAN COME IN
SOME NURSES FROM MY DEPARTMENT JUST WALKED IN!
EEEH?!

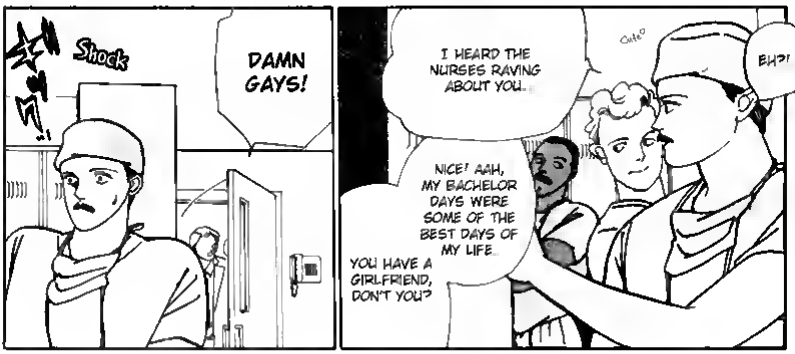
AH HAHA!
MAYBE THEY JUST HAVE A PASSION FOR KNOWLEDGE.
CURIOUS WOMEN ARE STARTING TO BECOME A REAL PROBLEM.

HAAH
SILENT NIGHT?
SHHHLENT
NIIIIGHT

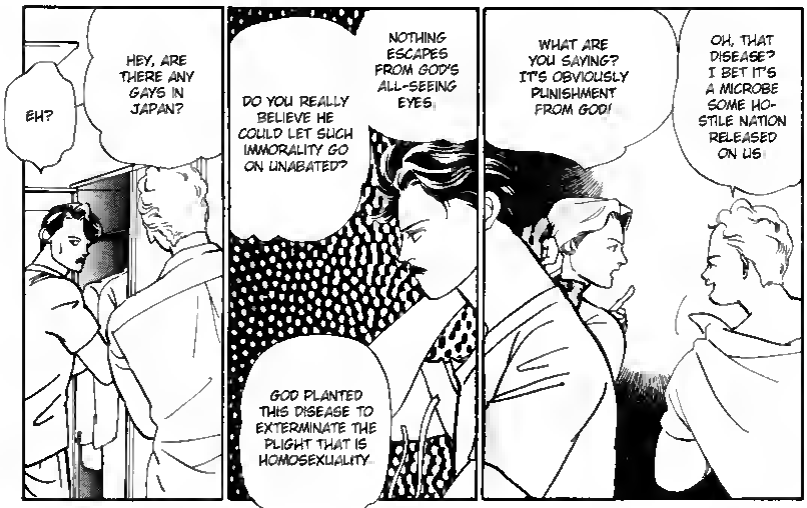
I'LL LEAVE MY WIFE.
New York November 1983
IF I DON'T, NONE OF US CAN BE HAPPY.
HOW SO?
ROMANTIC, ISN'T IT?

Beep
Beep
OK, 15 MINUTES HAVE PASSED
YOU CAN LET GO NOW, TOMOI.
I'm scared
Being a doctor is all about endurance
GOOD THE BLEEDING HAS STOPPED.

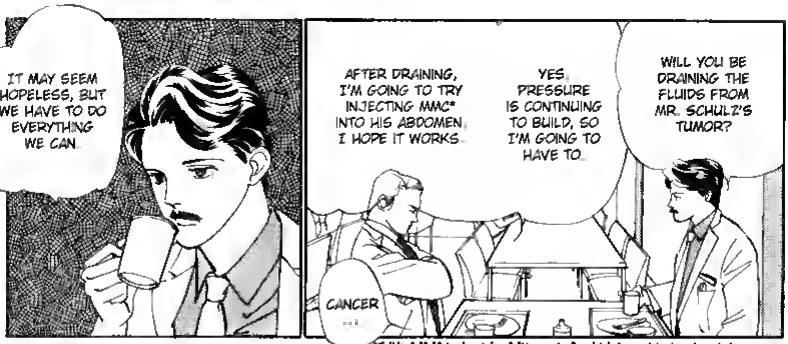

CHECK FOR POSSIBLE BILE LEAKS
I'M GOING TO MAKE AN INCISION ALONG THE CYSTIC DUCT AND INSERT A BALLOON CATHETER SO THAT WE CAN ENLARGE IT ENOUGH TO INTRODUCE SOME SALINE SOLUTION
DR TOMOI IS SOOO CUTE AND HE LOOKS LIKE AN ARABIAN PRINCE! HE'S PERFECT!


Shock
DAMN GAYS!
I HEARD THE NURSES RAVING ABOUT YOU...
EW?!
NICE! AAH, MY BACHELOR DAYS WERE SOME OF THE BEST DAYS OF MY LIFE.
YOU HAVE A GIRLFRIEND, DON'T YOU?

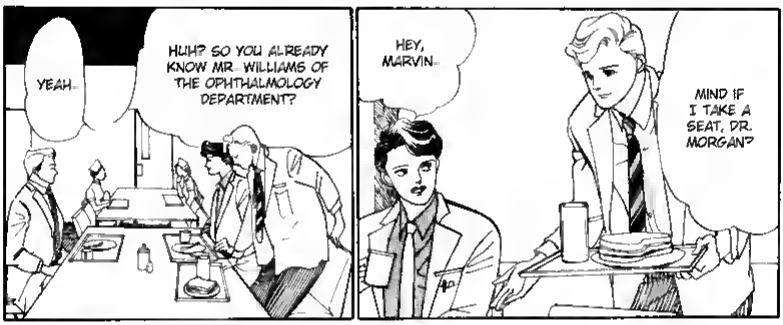
AIDS!
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
GAYS ARE BAD NEWS IN EVERY SENSE

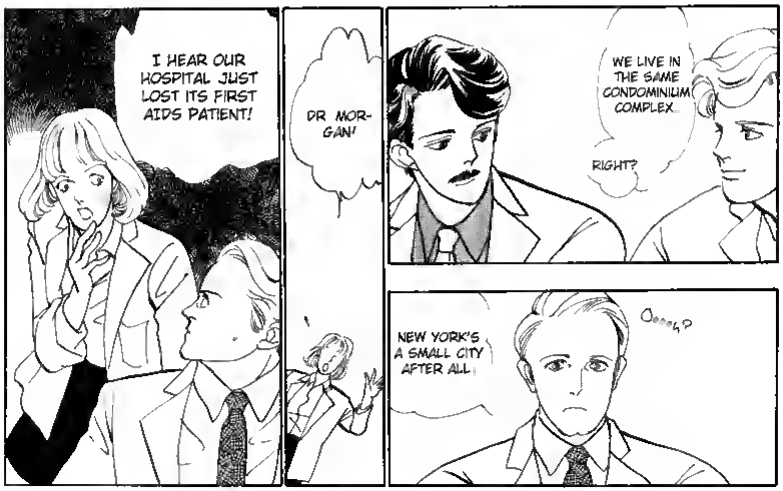

EH?
HEY, ARE THERE ANY GAYS IN JAPAN?
DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE HE COULD LET SUCH IMMORALITY GO ON UNABATED?
NOTHING ESCAPES FROM GOD'S ALL-SEEING EYES.
GOD PLANTED THIS DISEASE TO EXTERMINATE THE PLIGHT THAT IS HOMOSEXUALITY.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? IT'S OBVIOUSLY PUNISHMENT FROM GOD!
OH, THAT DISEASE? I BET IT'S A MICROBE SOME HOSTILE NATION RELEASED ON US.

I HAVE NO INTENTION OF GOING BACK TO JAPAN.
AAAAH! I KNEW IT! YOU DO HAVE A GIRLFRIEND HERE!
HE'S RIGHT. WHENEVER AMERICA STARTS SNEEZING,
JAPAN IS SURE TO CATCH A COLD.
YOU SHOULD JOIN AN AIDS RESEARCH TEAM SO YOU CAN BRING THAT KNOWLEDGE TO JAPAN IN THE FUTURE
THOUGH JAPAN'S GAYS LACK A CERTAIN CHARM
I GUESS THERE ARE...
THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE AFFECTED BY THE DISEASE IS VERY LIMITED
I'M SURE THE ONLY REASON PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT IT IS OUT OF SIMPLE CURIOSITY OVER THE WAY THIS "GAY CANCER" ONLY SHOWS UP IN GAY PEOPLE
Hmph
THUD
OUCH!
So cute!
I can't believe he ran into that!
ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME, HUH?


IT MAY SEEM HOPELESS, BUT WE HAVE TO DO EVERYTHING WE CAN.
AFTER DRAINING, I'M GOING TO TRY INJECTING MMC* INTO HIS ABDOMEN. I HOPE IT WORKS.
YES. PRESSURE IS CONTINUING TO BUILD, SO I'M GOING TO HAVE TO...
WILL YOU BE DRAINING THE FLUIDS FROM MR. SCHULZ'S TUMOR?
CANCER ...!

*T/N: MMC is short for Mitomycin C which is used to treat certain cancers.

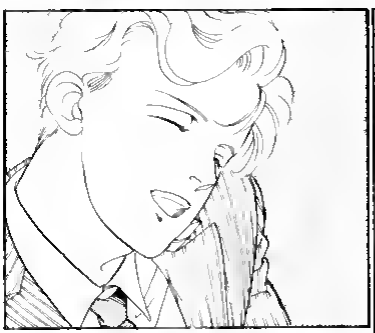



I HEAR OUR HOSPITAL JUST LOST ITS FIRST AIDS PATIENT!
DR. MORGAN!
WE LIVE IN THE SAME CONDOMINIUM COMPLEX.
RIGHT?
NEW YORK'S A SMALL CITY AFTER ALL.
Ohhh...?

HE LOST OVER 50 KILOS BETWEEN WHEN HE FIRST CAME IN AND WHEN HE DIED!
IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD!
WE KEEP GETTING MORE AND MORE PATIENTS
HISATSUGU TOU
ACTUALLY, THERE'VE ONLY BEEN AROUND 2,000 CASES ACROSS THE COUNTRY SO FAR
YOU SAY THAT NOW, BUT THE DISEASE IS GOING TO KEEP SPREADING AROUND THE WORLD!
IT EVEN SPECIFICALLY RECOGNIZES GAYS . OH, IT'S TERRIBLE! I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE!
.....
SHE CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE?
WE'RE THE ONES WHO SHOULD BE WORRIED

ONE OF THE REASONS THERE ARE MORE GAYS THESE DAYS IS BECAUSE WOMEN HAVE BECOME TOO STRONG
2330
CRYING AND RANTING LIKE THAT... THAT'S WHY I DISLIKE WOMEN
DID YOU HAVE A CRUSH ON HIM OR SOMETHING?
NOT A CHANCE
AND INSERT LIKE THIS.
TAKE A PAIR OF TWEEZERS,
HOLD THE PENIS LIKE THIS,
EH?!
I EXTRACTED SOME URINE FROM THAT MALE AIDS PATIENT

*T/N. sex life (German)

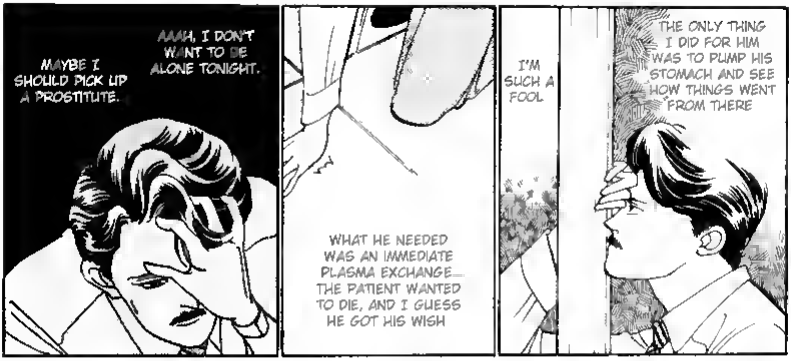


BE-
CAUSE
I'LL
ALWAYS
LOVE YOU
!
ALWAYS
LAUGH
FOR ME

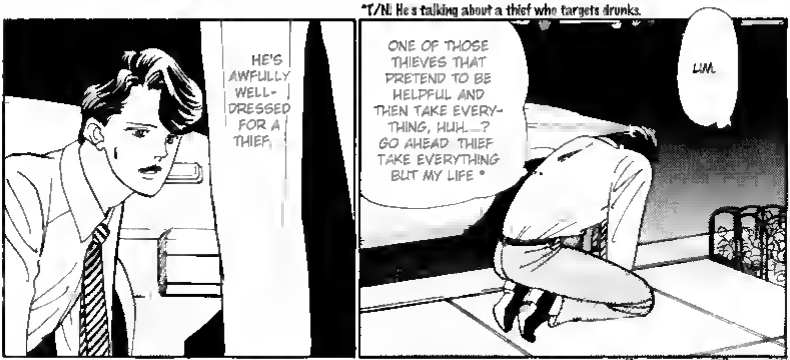
OH, MARVIN!
WHEN DID YOU COME HOME?
HUGGLE
I JUST GOT HERE ..
IT'S HARDLY EEEEVER THE CASE, BUT MY HUSBAND'S HERE TODAY!
BYE-BYE!
THANKS FOR TAKING ME HOME! GOOD NIGHT!
NANCY, WHO WAS THAT?
I'M GOING TO BED. I HAVE A FLIGHT TO CATCH TOMORROW
DOES IT MATTER?
WHERE ARE YOU GOING THIS TIME?
I HAVE THE FREEDOM TO GO WHEREVER I WANT AND DO WHATEVER I WANT, RIGHT?
JUST LIKE YOU HAVE THE FREEDOM TO NEGLECT OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CLAIMS OF WORK, WORK, WORK!
STOP ASKING SO MANY QUESTIONS! IT'S ANNOYING!
SORRY.

click
I DOUBT IT'S REALLY WORK!
YOU'RE OUT PLAYING WITH ALL THE CUTE NURSES, AREN'T YOU?
.....
SLAM
THE KITCHEN'S A MESS, TOO!

THE MOON'S BEAUTIFUL TONIGHT.
THE SKY WAS LIT BY A SIMILAR MOON
ON THE NIGHT WE MET, MARVIN.
I WAS FEELING DOWN DUE TO A MISTAKE I MADE THAT DAY
THERE WAS A PATIENT WHO ATTEMPTED SUICIDE BY DRINKING AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS
I WAS CARELESS BECAUSE THERE WERE NO OUTWARD SIGNS OF IMPAIRMENT


MAYBE I SHOULD PICK UP A PROSTITUTE.
AAAH. I DON'T WANT TO BE ALONE TONIGHT.
WHAT HE NEEDED WAS AN IMMEDIATE PLASMA EXCHANGE... THE PATIENT WANTED TO DIE, AND I GUESS HE GOT HIS WISH
I'M SUCH A FOOL
THE ONLY THING I DID FOR HIM WAS TO PUMP HIS STOMACH AND SEE HOW THINGS WENT FROM THERE

*T/N: He's talking about a thief who targets drunks.


HE'S AWFULLY WELL-DRESSED FOR A THIEF.
ONE OF THOSE THIEVES THAT PRETEND TO BE HELPFUL AND THEN TAKE EVERYTHING, HUH...? GO AHEAD THIEF TAKE EVERYTHING BUT MY LIFE *
UM.

DOWNING AS MANY STRAIGHT SHOTS AS YOU DID IS BAD FOR YOUR LIVER
!
SO HE WAS WATCHING ME THE ENTIRE TIME
I SEE
YOU CAN STAY WITH ME TONIGHT IF YOU'D LIKE
I'D PREFER IT IF YOU COULD TAKE ME HOME
MY BED IS A VERY COMFORTABLE PLACE TO SLEEP
WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRY IT?

WHICH WAY TO YOUR PLACE?
EH?!
YOU LIVE HERE?
YEAH, 11TH FLOOR.
EH?!
SNICKER
ISN'T IT THOUGH?
WELCOME BACK.
IT'S RARE TO SEE THE TWO YOU TWO TOGETHER.

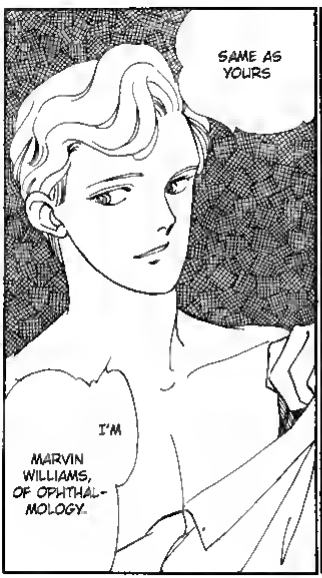
woooosh
He He He
SERIOUSLY?
Snapped out of his drunken stupor
I'M ON THE 10TH FLOOR
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! WHAT ARE THE ODDS?!
AH HAHA HAHA!
SEE YOU, THEN
PAT
10
AH! 10TH FLOOR
PAUSE
turn
Dazed

clunk
LUNGE
CHANEL POUR MONSIEUR .
IT'S FATE
WE EVEN WEAR THE SAME COLOGNE

EH?!

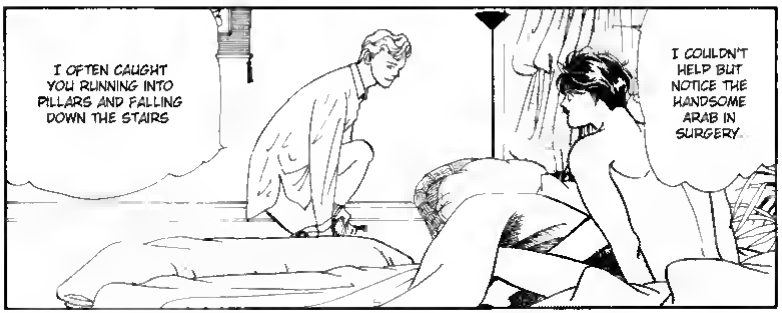
がばっ
GETS UP

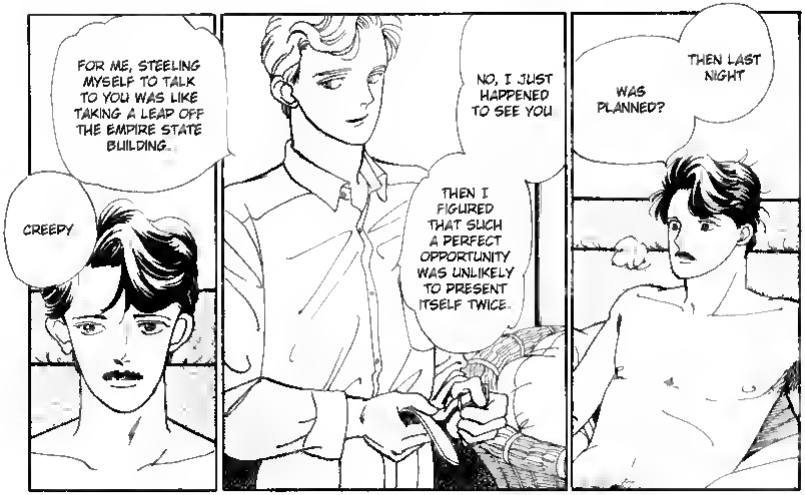
I USED YOUR SHOWER
YOUR TOWEL TOO
I'M GOING TO THE HOSPITAL THEN.
YUP ...
SHOULDN'T YOU GET UP? IT'S MORNING YOU KNOW
WORKED THE NIGHT SHIFT...

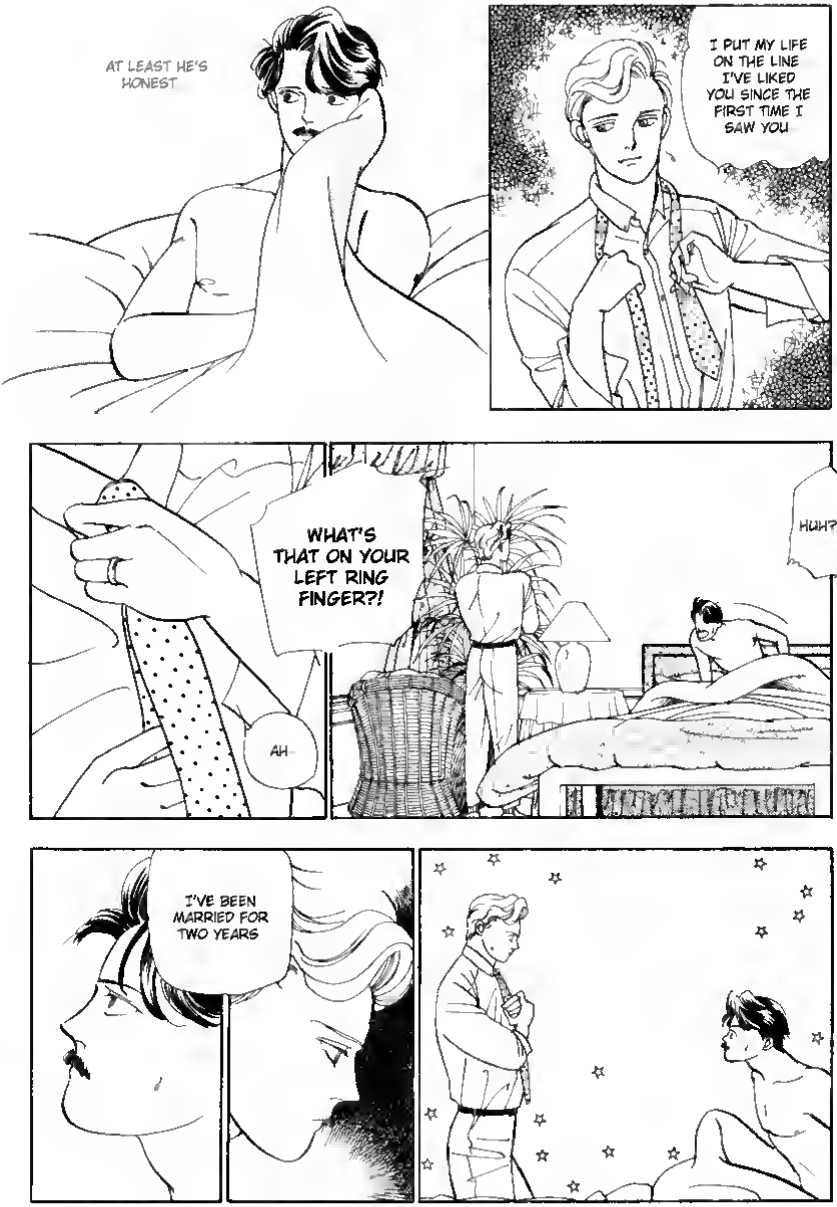

SAME AS YOURS
I'M MARVIN WILLIAMS, OF OPHTHAL-MOLOGY.

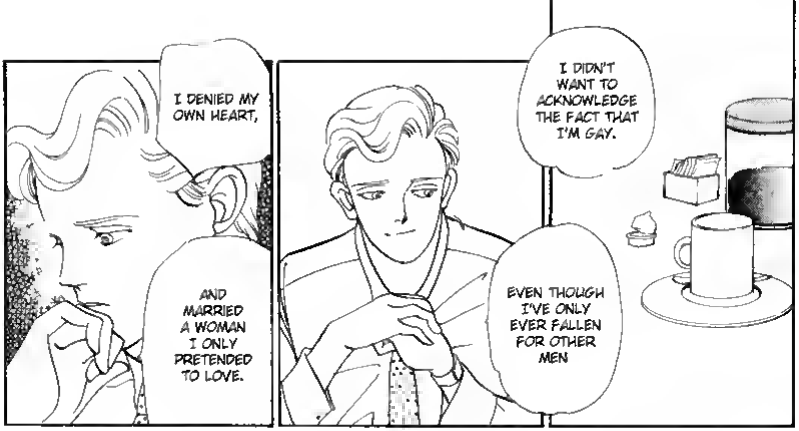
THE... HOS-PITAL ...?

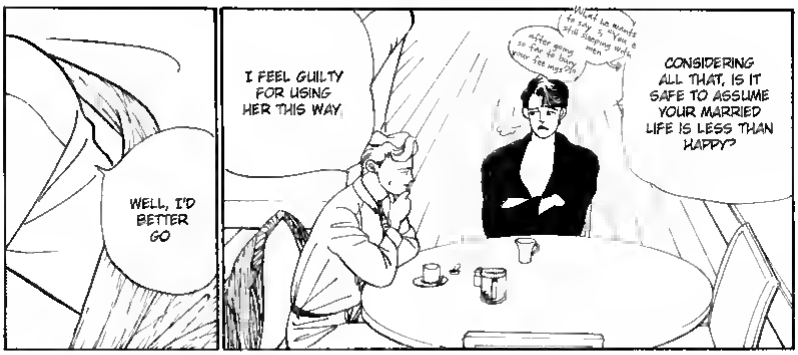
YOU MIGHT NOT HAVE NOTICED ME,
BUT TO TELL THE TRUTH, I'VE KNOWN ABOUT YOU SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR.
YOU'RE A DOC-TOR?!

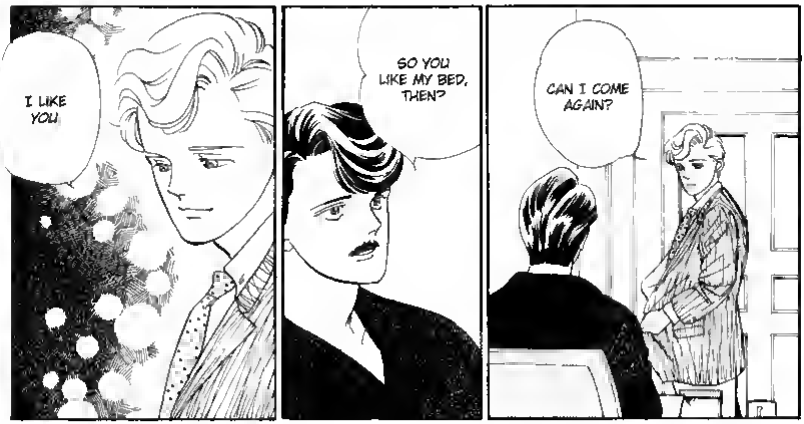

I OFTEN CAUGHT YOU RUNNING INTO PILLARS AND FALLING DOWN THE STAIRS
I COULDN'T HELP BUT NOTICE THE HANDSOME ARAB IN SURGERY.

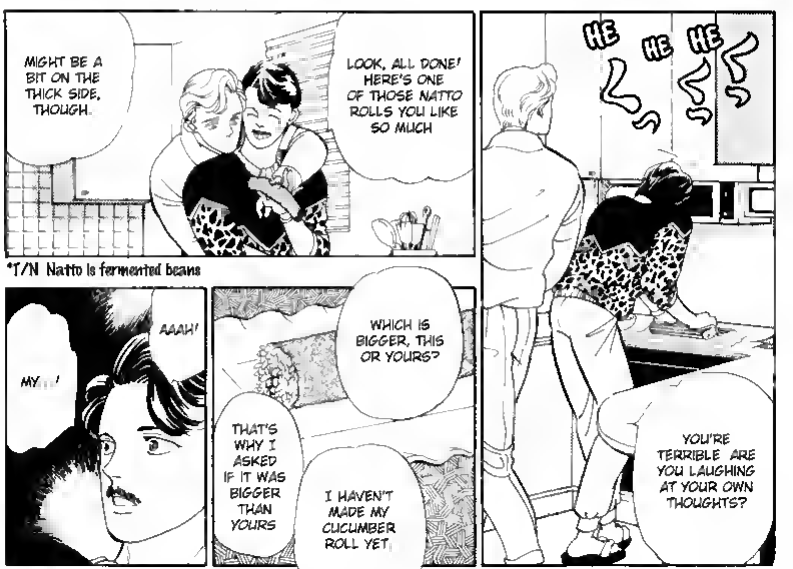

FOR ME, STEELING MYSELF TO TALK TO YOU WAS LIKE TAKING A LEAP OFF THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING.
CREEPY
NO, I JUST HAPPENED TO SEE YOU
THEN I FIGURED THAT SUCH A PERFECT OPPORTUNITY WAS UNLIKELY TO PRESENT ITSELF TWICE.
THEN LAST NIGHT WAS PLANNED?


AT LEAST HE'S HONEST
I PUT MY LIFE ON THE LINE I'VE LIKED YOU SINCE THE FIRST TIME I SAW YOU
WHAT'S THAT ON YOUR LEFT RING FINGER?!
AH-
HUH?!
I'VE BEEN MARRIED FOR TWO YEARS


I DENIED MY OWN HEART,
AND MARRIED A WOMAN I ONLY PRETENDED TO LOVE.
I DIDN'T WANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE FACT THAT I'M GAY.
EVEN THOUGH I'VE ONLY EVER FALLEN FOR OTHER MEN


WELL, I'D BETTER GO
I FEEL GUILTY FOR USING HER THIS WAY.
CONSIDERING ALL THAT, IS IT SAFE TO ASSUME YOUR MARRIED LIFE IS LESS THAN HAPPY?

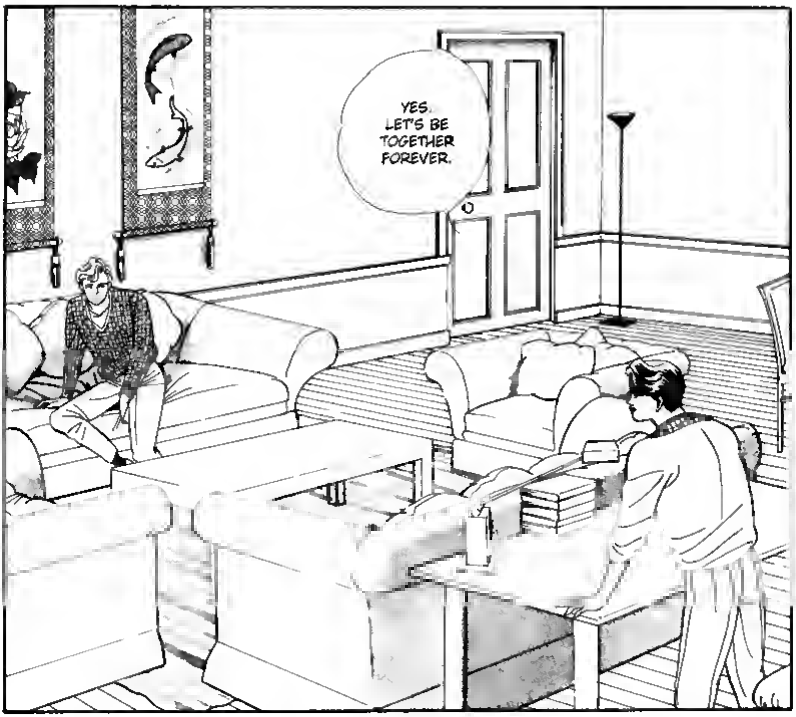

I LIKE YOU.
SO YOU LIKE MY BED, THEN?
CAN I COME AGAIN?

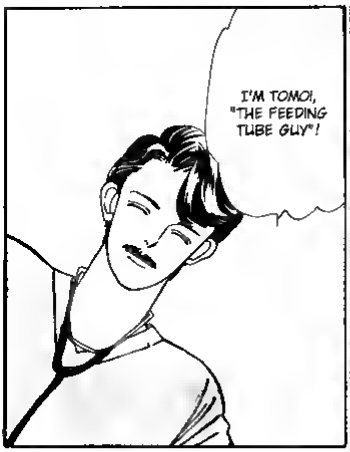

MIGHT BE A BIT ON THE THICK SIDE, THOUGH.
LOOK, ALL DONE! HERE'S ONE OF THOSE NATTO ROLLS YOU LIKE SO MUCH
HE HE HE
AAAH!
MY...!
WHICH IS BIGGER, THIS OR YOURS?
THAT'S WHY I ASKED IF IT WAS BIGGER THAN YOURS
I HAVEN'T MADE MY CUCUMBER ROLL YET.
YOU'RE TERRIBLE ARE YOU LAUGHING AT YOUR OWN THOUGHTS?

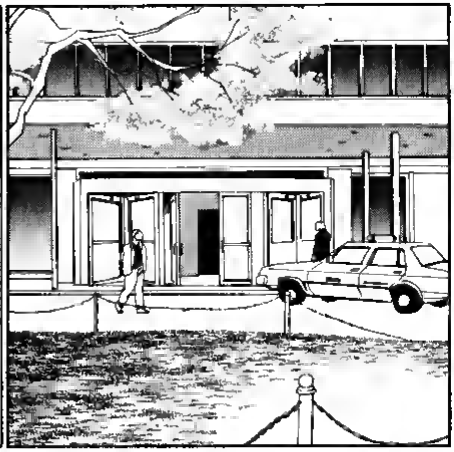
*T/N Natto is fermented beans

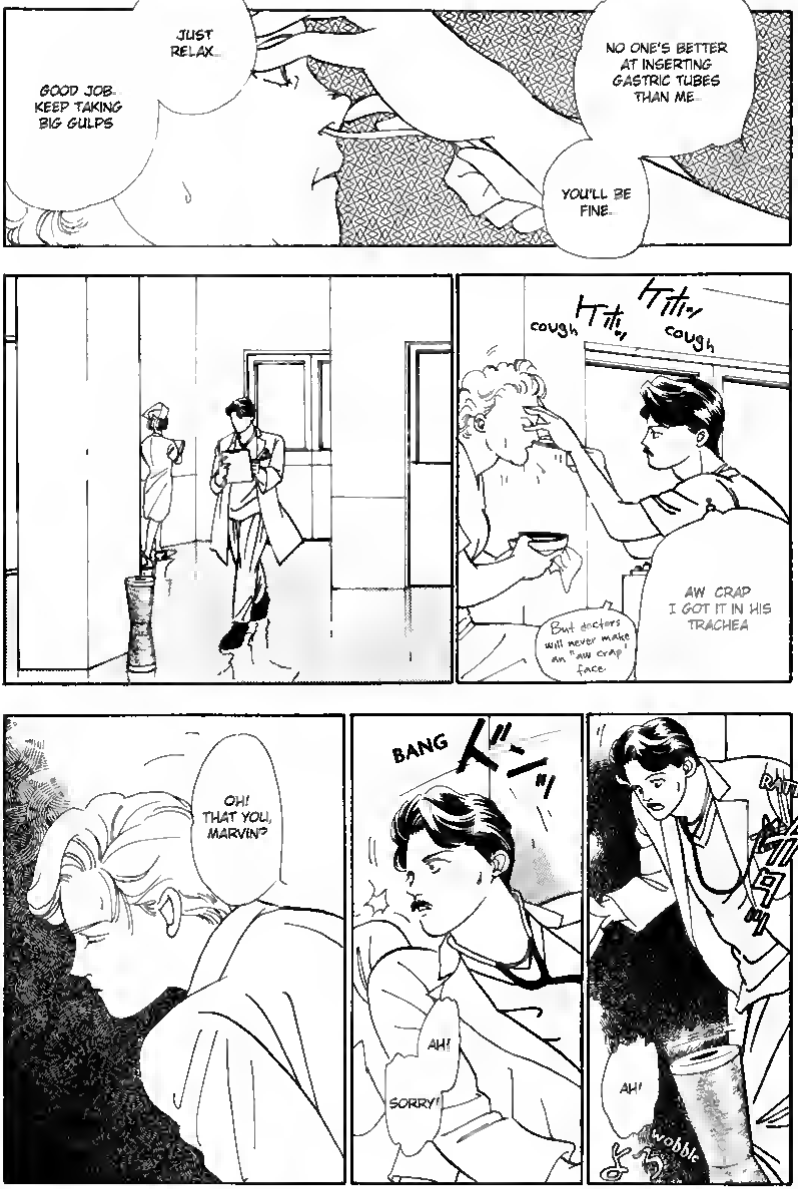
I FEEL TIRED
THAT'S EASY IF YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW, JUST STICK THE ENTIRE NATTO ROLL IN YOUR MOUTH
.....
DON'T ACTUALLY DO IT!
LET EEEVERY HEEEART PREPAAARE HIM ROOOOOM
YOU'RE IN A GOOD MOOD
IS NEXT MONTH CHRISTMAS ALREADY?
LET EEEARTH RECEEEIVE HER KIIING
JOOOY TO THE WOOORLD, THE LORD HAS COME
I WONDER WHY DID I DO SOMETHING TO MAKE ME FEEL THIS WAY ?
AND YOU'RE MINE
YOU'RE MY SAVIOR

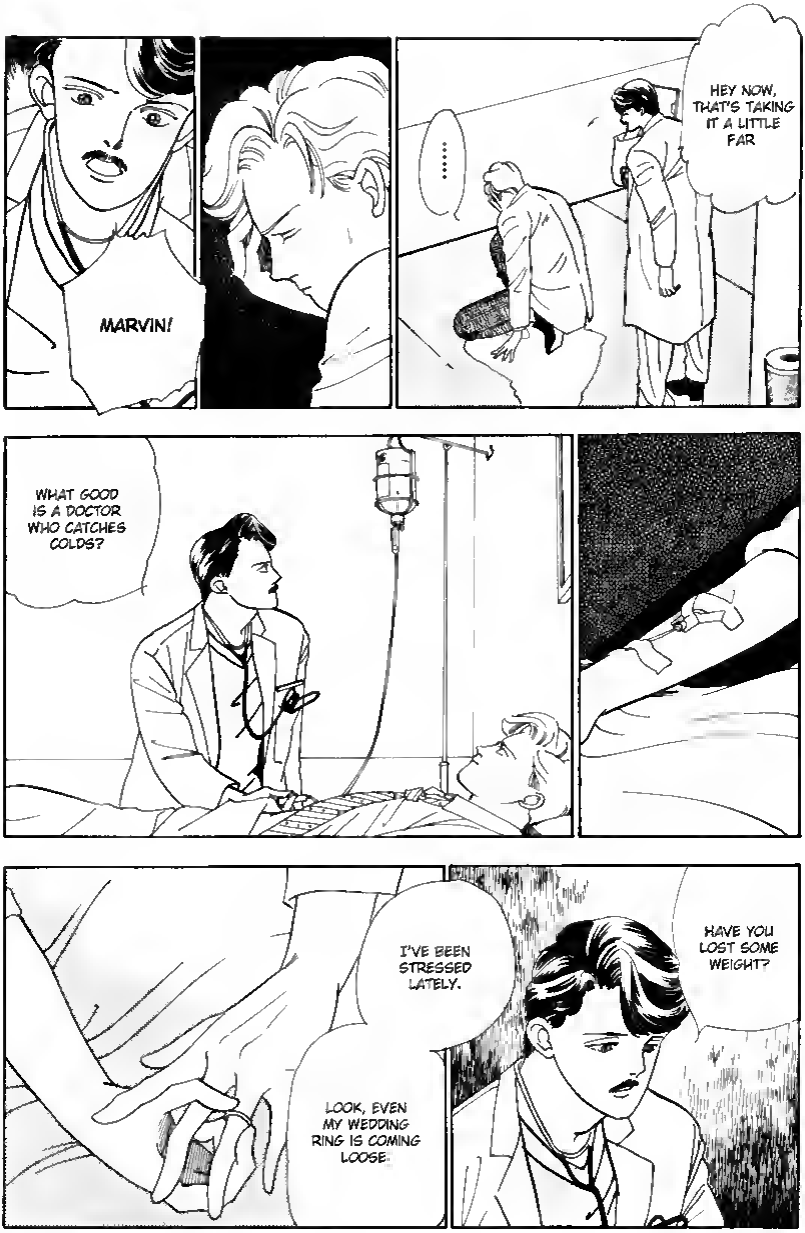
THE TRANQUILITY I SENSE WHEN WE'RE TOGETHER
I ENJOY
AND HEAVEN
AND NATURE SIIING
HAH, YEAH RIGHT THIS ISN'T SOME CHILDISH LOVE AFFAIR
AND HEAVEEEN AND HEEEAVEN
MARVIN, LET'S ALWAYS BE TOGETHER
AND HEAVEN AND NATURE SIIING
AND..
CAN I STAY WITH YOU FOREVER?


YES.
LET'S BE
TOGETHER
FOREVER.


I'M TOMOI,
"THE FEEDING
TUBE GUY"!



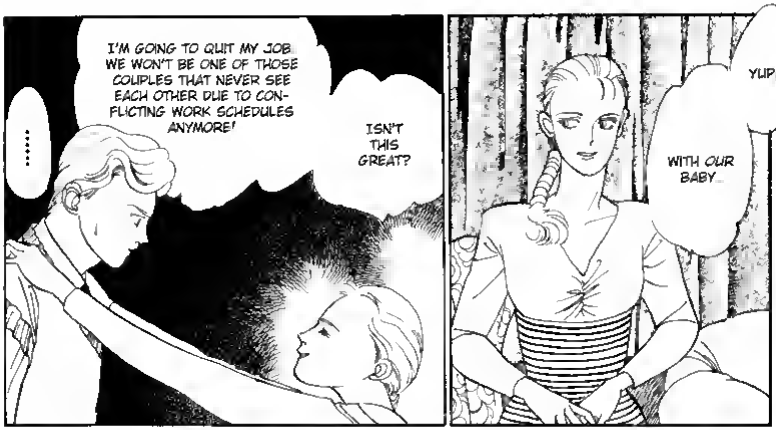

JUST RELAX...
GOOD JOB... KEEP TAKING BIG GULPS
NO ONE'S BETTER AT INSERTING GASTRIC TUBES THAN ME...
YOU'LL BE FINE...
cough
cough
AW CRAP I GOT IT IN HIS TRACHEA
But doctors will never make an "aw crap" face.
OH! THAT YOU, MARVIN?
BANG
AH! SORRY!
RATTLE
AH!
wobble

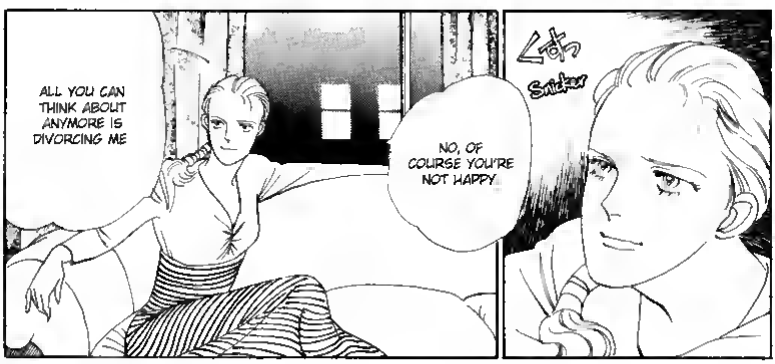

MARVIN!
.....
HEY NOW, THAT'S TAKING IT A LITTLE FAR
WHAT GOOD IS A DOCTOR WHO CATCHES COLDS?
I'VE BEEN STRESSED LATELY.
LOOK, EVEN MY WEDDING RING IS COMING LOOSE.
HAVE YOU LOST SOME WEIGHT?

IT'S FINE.
I'D BE IN BIG TROUBLE IF I DROPPED IT. WOULD YOU HOLD ONTO IT FOR ME?
YOUR WEDDING RING?!
ISN'T IT SOLID GOLD?
snicker
I'LL BE LEFT PENNILESS.
I BET THE DIVORCE SETTLEMENT WON'T BE CHEAP
I WANT TO COMPENSATE NANCY IN ANY WAY I CAN.
ALL I NEED IS YOU.

HUH?
I'LL TALK TO NANCY AS EARLY AS TOMORROW...
ABOUT THE FUTURE
WHY IS YOUR RING FINGER THE SAME SIZE AS MY PINKY?!
HAHAHA
BEATS ME!
DON'T PUSH YOURSELF.
I WANT THIS CHRIST-MAS TO BE WONDERFUL...

YOU'RE PREGNANT?!


I'M GOING TO QUIT MY JOB. WE WON'T BE ONE OF THOSE COUPLES THAT NEVER SEE EACH OTHER DUE TO CONFLICTING WORK SCHEDULES ANYMORE!
ISN'T THIS GREAT?
.....
YUP.
WITH OUR BABY...

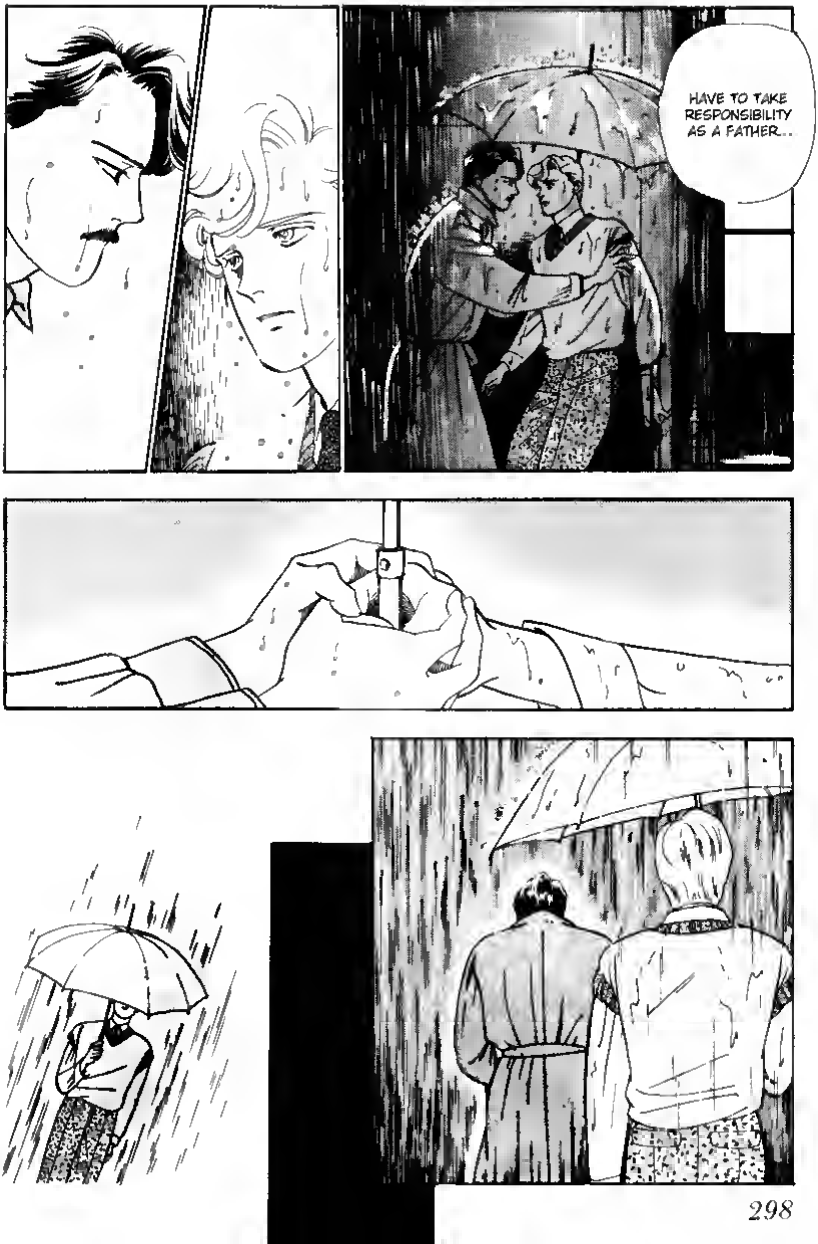

ALL YOU CAN THINK ABOUT ANYMORE IS DIVORCING ME
NO, OF COURSE YOU'RE NOT HAPPY.
Sniffle

IT TOOK A LOT OF HARD WORK TO BAG A DOCTOR
BUT I'LL NEVER LET THAT HAPPEN
NANCY
I HOPE YOU SUFFER.
GO AHEAD AND TELL YOUR CUTE GIRLFRIEND
SHE HAS NO CHANCE OF MARRYING YOU NOW.

MAR-VIN?!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING OUT HERE?
YOU'LL GET PNEUMONIA!

I'M BEING PUNI-SHED
BY GOD...

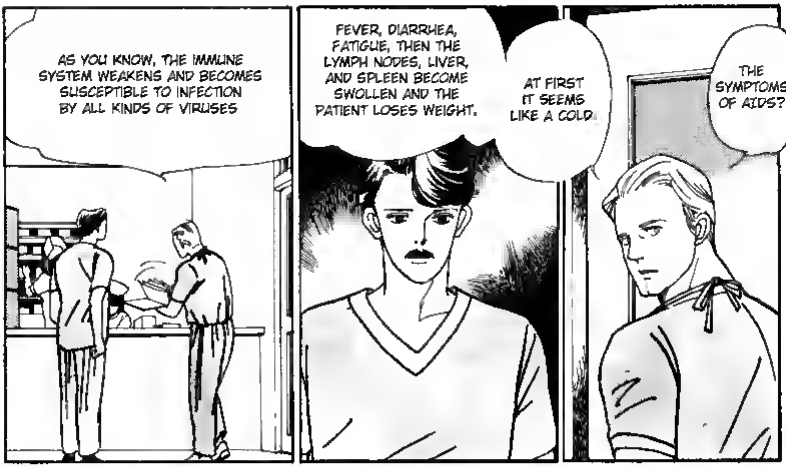
SHE'S PREGNANT
PUNI-SHED?
WHAT SHOULD I DO...?
YOU..


HAVE TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY AS A FATHER...

WHAT MADE ME TELL HIM TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY AS A FATHER?
I SHOULD GO BACK TO JAPAN.
YOU'RE NOT SOME WISE, OLD SAGE YOU'RE AN IDIOT, HISATSUGU
CRACK

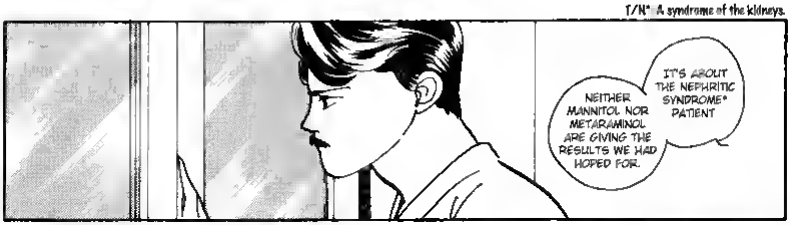
THAT'S NO GOOD
YOU FORGOT TO LOCK YOUR DOOR.
.....
IF YOU'VE COME TO KILL ME, I WELCOME IT

HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
CHANEL
MY CHEST HURTS...
DON'T WORRY
THAT'S WHY I KEEP SAYING YOU SHOULD GET LOOKED AT BY A SPECIALIST


AS YOU KNOW, THE IMMUNE SYSTEM WEAKENS AND BECOMES SUSCEPTIBLE TO INFECTION BY ALL KINDS OF VIRUSES
FEVER, DIARRHEA, FATIGUE, THEN THE LYMPH NODES, LIVER, AND SPLEEN BECOME SWOLLEN AND THE PATIENT LOSES WEIGHT.
AT FIRST IT SEEMS LIKE A COLD.
THE SYMPTOMS OF AIDS?

*T/N. A tumor caused by a type of herpes virus.
**T/N. Pneumocystis Pneumonia.

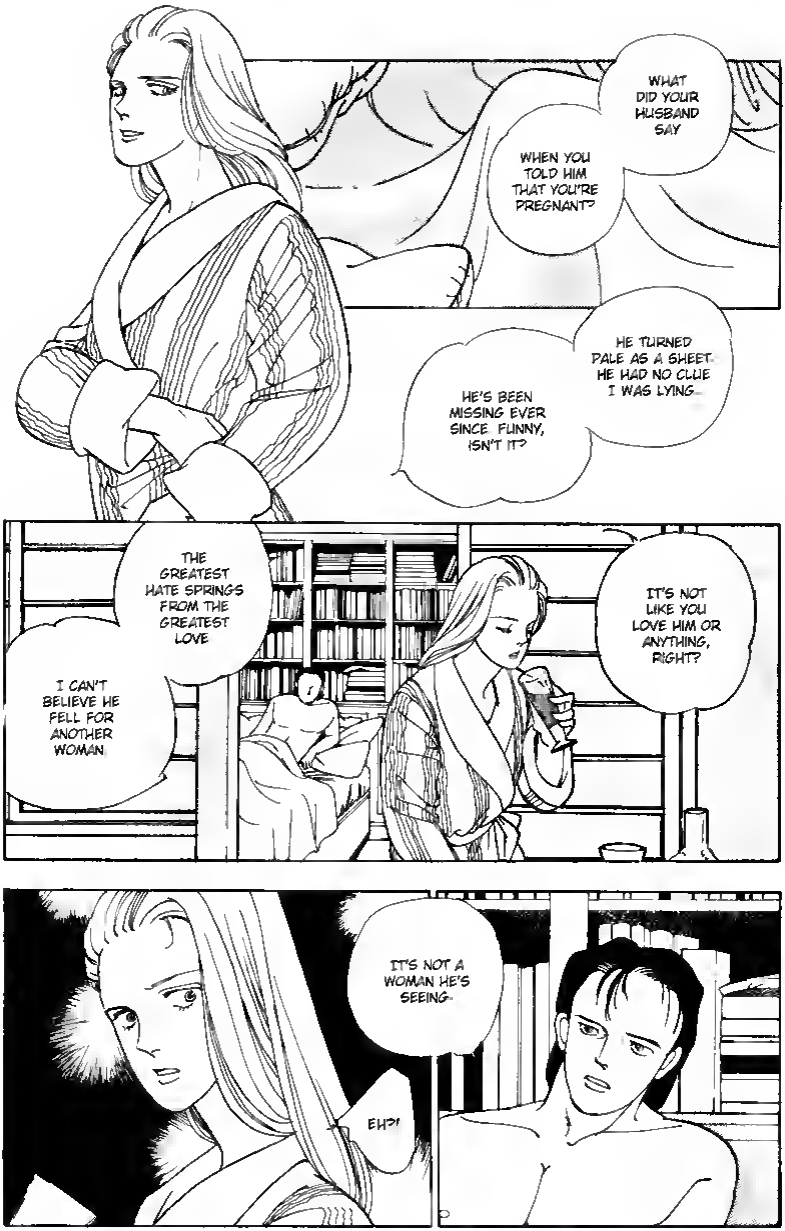
T/N*: A syndrome of the kidneys.

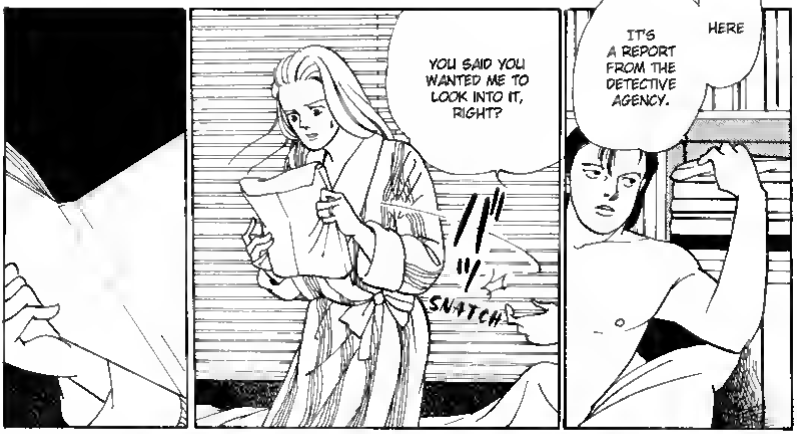


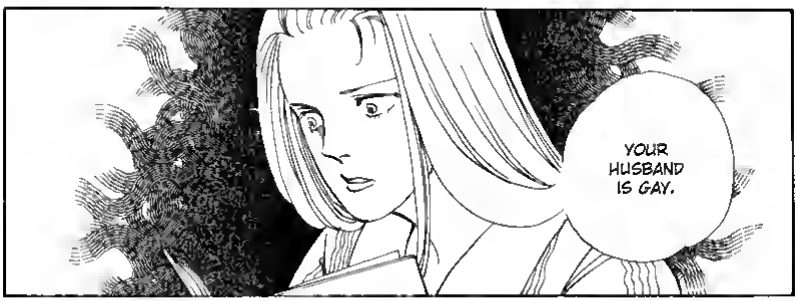
IT'S A RECORDING OF A PRIEST'S LINES.
AND THIS TAPE?
WHAT'S WITH THESE FLOWERS?
A WEDDING CEREMONY
WHAT FOR?
WELL, NOT EXACTLY A PRIEST. I RECORDED IT MYSELF
LET'S GET MARRIED
EH?

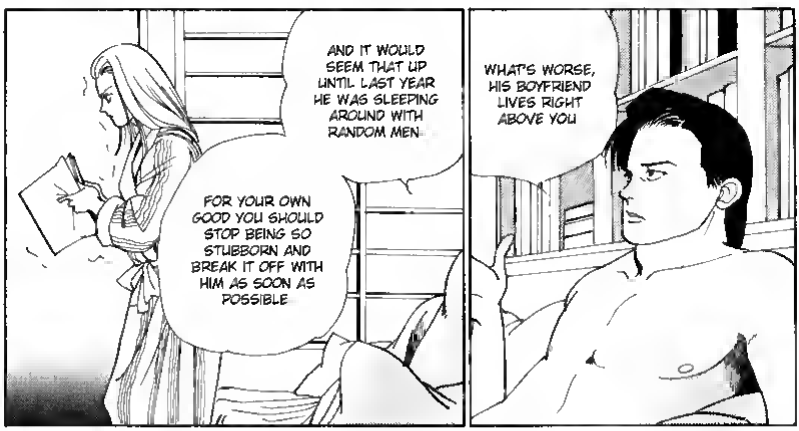
IF WE DID THAT, IT'D SHATTER ANY MORAL STANDING WE HAVE LEFT
AND?
WHY NOT!
WHY?
WE'LL GO TO HELL
FINE BY ME
LET'S GO TOGETHER

DO YOU HISATSUGU TOMOI
TAKE MARVIN WILLIAMS TO BE YOUR HUSBAND TO LOVE AND CHERISH HIM IN SICKNESS AND IN HEALTH?
I DO.


WHAT DID YOUR HUSBAND SAY
WHEN YOU TOLD HIM THAT YOU'RE PREGNANT?
HE TURNED PALE AS A SHEET. HE HAD NO CLUE I WAS LYING—
HE'S BEEN MISSING EVER SINCE. FUNNY, ISN'T IT?
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU LOVE HIM OR ANYTHING, RIGHT?
THE GREATEST HATE SPRINGS FROM THE GREATEST LOVE
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE FELL FOR ANOTHER WOMAN
IT'S NOT A WOMAN HE'S SEEING.
EH?!


HERE
IT'S A REPORT FROM THE DETECTIVE AGENCY.
YOU SAID YOU WANTED ME TO LOOK INTO IT, RIGHT?
SNATCH

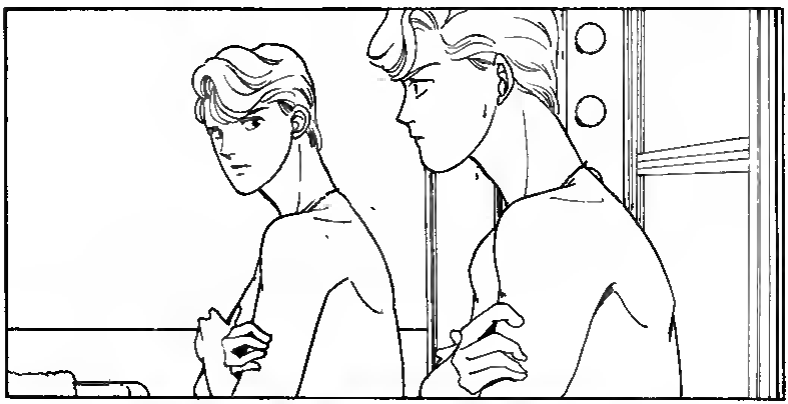

YOUR HUSBAND IS GAY.


AND IT WOULD SEEM THAT UP UNTIL LAST YEAR HE WAS SLEEPING AROUND WITH RANDOM MEN.
FOR YOUR OWN GOOD YOU SHOULD STOP BEING SO STUBBORN AND BREAK IT OFF WITH HIM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
WHAT'S WORSE, HIS BOYFRIEND LIVES RIGHT ABOVE YOU

A MAN!
HE'S WITH ..
A MAN..
Sizzle

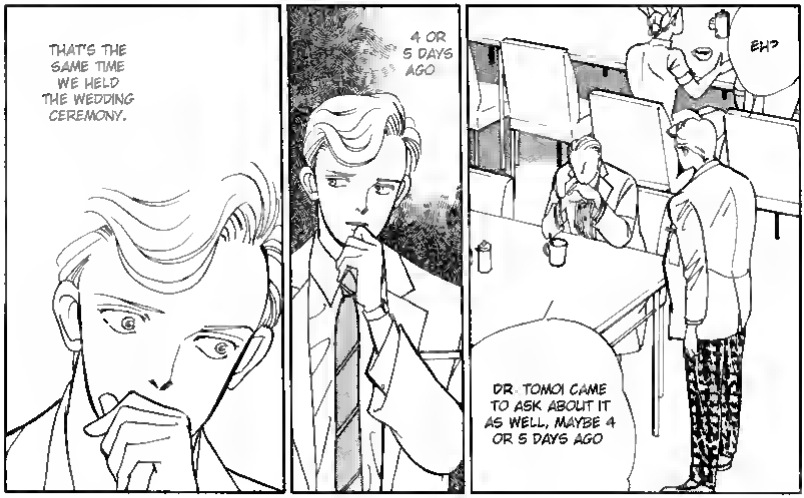
scrape
scrape
sizzle
sizzle
sizzle
MARVIN! BREAKFAST!
BE RIGHT OUT.
FLIP!

……



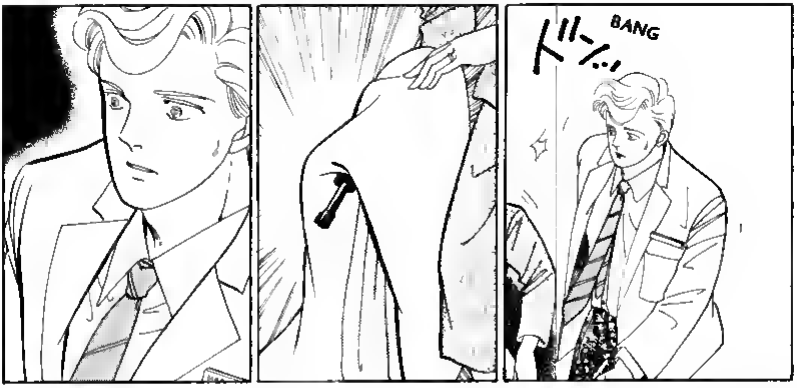
MARVIN!
CO-MING!

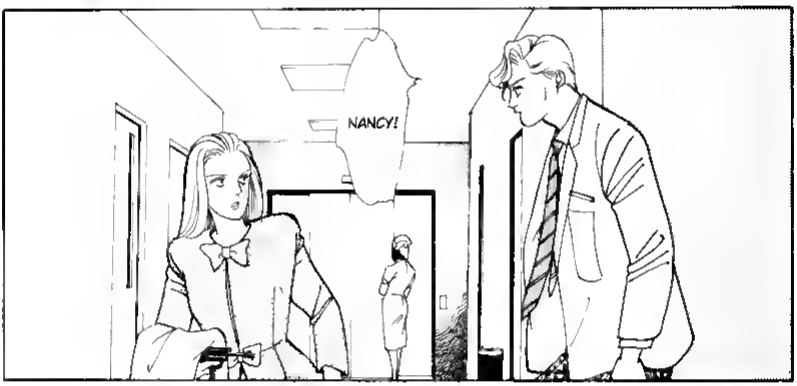
I'LL BE FINE
IF YOU START TO FEEL SICK, COME FIND ME STRAIGHT AWAY.
AIDS?
YOU'RE CURIOUS TOO, HUH?

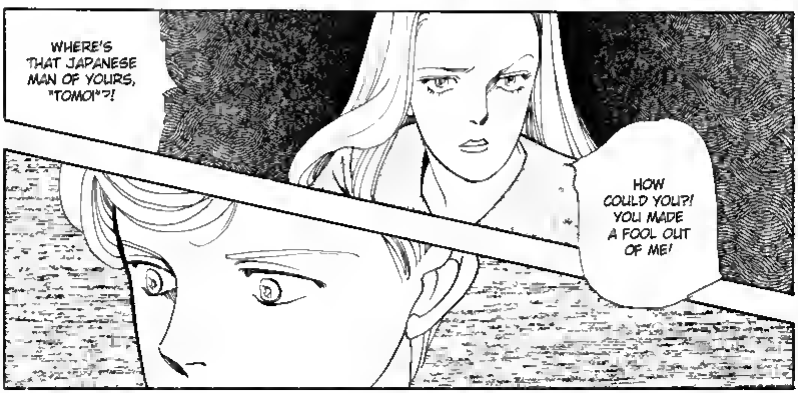

THAT'S THE SAME TIME WE HELD THE WEDDING CEREMONY.
4 OR 5 DAYS AGO
EH?
DR. TOMOI CAME TO ASK ABOUT IT AS WELL, MAYBE 4 OR 5 DAYS AGO

HEY!
MARVIN!
hide
YOU
USED TO WEAR A WEDDING RING, DIDN'T YOU?
TAP
TAP
TAP
"...LET'S GET MARRIED..."
"... IF YOU START TO FEEL SICK, COME FIND ME STRAIGHT AWAY ."

"FINE BY ME... LET'S GO TOGETHER."
TOMO!...
IT CAN'T BE
Aahe!
Snicker
AH HA HA
YOU INTEND TO DIE ONCE I DO, IS THAT IT?
MOY


BANG


NANCY!

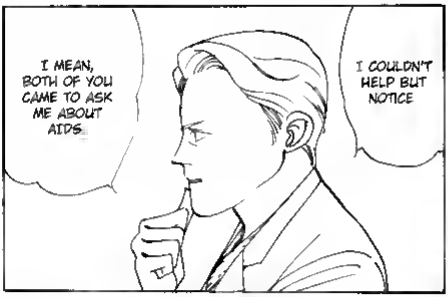

WHERE'S THAT JAPANESE MAN OF YOURS, "TOMOI"?!
HOW COULD YOU?! YOU MADE A FOOL OUT OF ME!

YOU FILTHY FAG!
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
KYAAAH!
CLANG

NANCY
MOY!
AH
TOMOI!

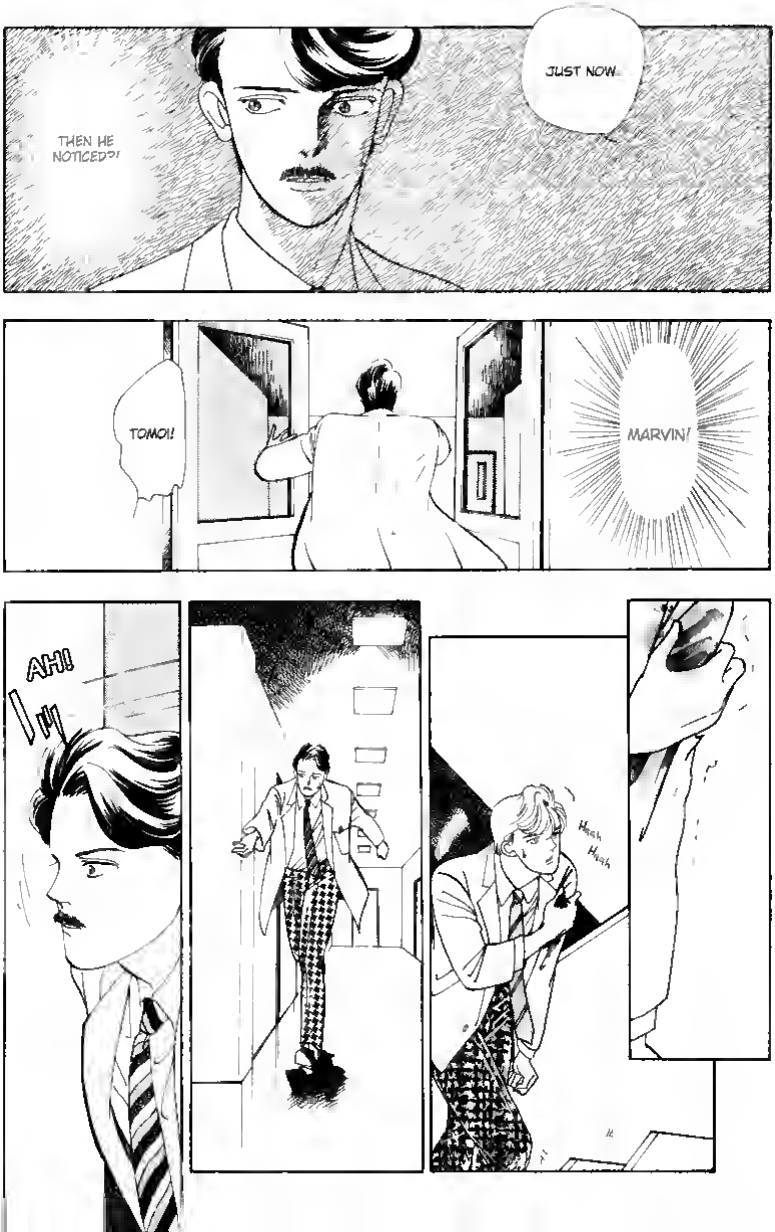
SHOCK
THAT'S HIS RING, ISN'T IT?

HAS DR WILLIAMS STOPPED BY HERE?
HM?
NO

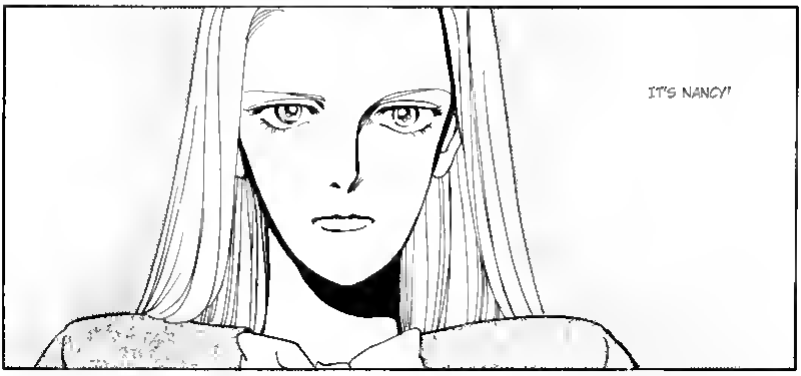

I MEAN, BOTH OF YOU CAME TO ASK ME ABOUT AIDS.
I COULDN'T HELP BUT NOTICE

WHAT IS THE NATURE OF YOUR RELATIONSHIP, EXACTLY?
.....
SORRY, I DON'T MEAN TO SOUND ACCUSATORY

MARVIN TOO?!
WHEN?


JUST NOW...
THEN HE NOTICED?!
TOMO!!
MARVIN!
AH!!
Hash Hash

NANCY ?


IT'S NANCY!

RUSTLE
...
TOMOI!

STAY BACK!

BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
Kyaaaa!

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
yank
clack
clack
clack

MARVIN.
MAR-
VIN
MARVIN.

I'M SO GLAD
THIS BODY OF MINE
COULD BE USEFUL.
TOMOI! WE HAVE TO MOVE HIM, QUICKLY!
HE NEEDS TREATMENT.
SOMEONE!
MARVIN
LEAVE HIM BE.
WHA
MO...
WHAT
DON'T
GO

MARVIN
..
TO HELL
I LOVE YOU
YES
I LOVE YOU
YES

SLIP
MARVIN

JOOOY
TO THE
WOOORLD,
THE LORD
HAS COME
LET EEEARTH
RECEEEIVE
HER KIIING

Printed in the June 1987 issue of Petite Flower

Tomoi

Akisato Wakuni

Volume 1

Ch.4 -End-

HotCakes Presents

Credits:

Translator: Kololo

Editor: Stubborn Blob

ProofReader: Catriona

QCers: Synthoside, NightSwan & Altilye

The sky was just as blue...

HotCakes

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By disobeying this commandment thou hath by default forfeited your soul

- Thou shalt not take the name of HotCakes in vain nor shalt thou remove any credits or inserts from the HotCakes files.

Commandments

- Honour thy scanlation group.
Thou shalt not covet thy scanlation group's links without offering proper credit to HotCakes.

- Thou shalt not profit from the HotCakes group's hard work.
And neither shalt we or any living being upon Earth other than the highly esteemed original creator of any project we shine our light upon.

- Shalt it so happen that any licensing befalls a project Hotcakes is laboring with any distribution shalt be banned and links will be removed.

WHAT?
YOU'RE
GOING TO
PAKISTAN?!

YES
I'LL BE WORKING AT A REFUGEE HOSPITAL
THAT'S INSANE! WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, HISATSUGU?!
WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON OVER THERE?
HISA-TSUGU!
カリ
Click

SOMEONE PLEASE KILL ME!
EVER SINCE THE SOVIET ARMY INVADED AFGHANISTAN IN 1979, PAKISTAN HAS BEEN FLOODED WITH REFUGEES.
WOMEN RARELY SHOW THEMSELVES
THIS PLACE IS PART OF THE MUSLIM WORLD

SAEED
DOCTOR.
I FEEL COMFORTABLE HERE.
LOOKS PERFECTLY FINE NOW.
TRY MOVING IT.
SOVIET FORCES VIOLATED LOCAL AIRSPACE AGAIN YESTERDAY.
MUST BE HARD ON THE PAKISTANI AIR FORCE TOO, HAVING TO SCRAMBLE INTO ACTION EVERY TIME
FEELS GOOD NOW I CAN GO BACK TO THE FRONT LINES

THEY NEED DOCTORS, RIGHT?
.....
YOU MEAN AFGHANI-STAN.
CAN I GO WITH YOU?
YEAH.
I CAN'T GUARANTEE YOUR SAFETY
UNDER-STAND?
WE WALK ALL DAY LONG.
DAY AFTER DAY, IT'S MOUNTAINS MOUNTAINS, AND MORE MOUNTAINS
ACROSS THE BORDER TO AFGHANISTAN TO THE GUERILLA BASE

ARE WE GOING TO CROSS THE RIVER?
FLICKER
YES, WE HAVE ALLIES THERE.
IT'S A SIGNAL FROM THE OTHER SIDE.
Flicker

ARGH!
DOCTOR!
RATTATATAT
IT'S THE ENEMY!
TURN OFF THE LAMP!

RATTATATAT
TATATATATAT
URK..
DOCTOR!

MARVIN.
"...DON'T GO TO HELL..."

1984, Afghanistan
DR TOMOI
HEY, SAEED

crackle
crackle
ACCORDING TO ONE OF THE PRISONERS,
SOVIET AND GOVERNMENT TROOPS ARE GOING TO LAUNCH AN ATTACK SOON.
YOU'RE A DEAR FRIEND TO ME, BUT I REALLY CAN'T PROTECT YOU ANY LONGER.
YOU'RE MY RESPONSIBILITY, SINCE I'M THE ONE WHO BROUGHT YOU THIS FAR
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
DEATH MEANS GOING TO ALLAH, RIGHT?
I DON'T VALUE MY LIFE
DOCTOR!

*T/N. Pashto is primarily spoken by the Pashtun people of Afghanistan and Pakistan.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND PASHTO* TRANSLATE FOR ME.
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
OH, SO YOU'RE NOT NURISTANI**? I CAN SPEAK ENGLISH.
PLEASE TAKE A LOOK AT HIM.
I HEARD THERE WAS A DOCTOR AT THIS BASE...
BROKEN BONE, HUH?
I'M TOMO!
I FELL DOWN A ROCK WALL.
I'M A PHOTOGRAPHER FROM AMERICA. THE NAME'S SMITH
AH, ENGLISH! THANK GOODNESS...
!
AND WHO'S THAT?

**A/N. The Nuristanis are a wide-haired, blue-eyed tribe

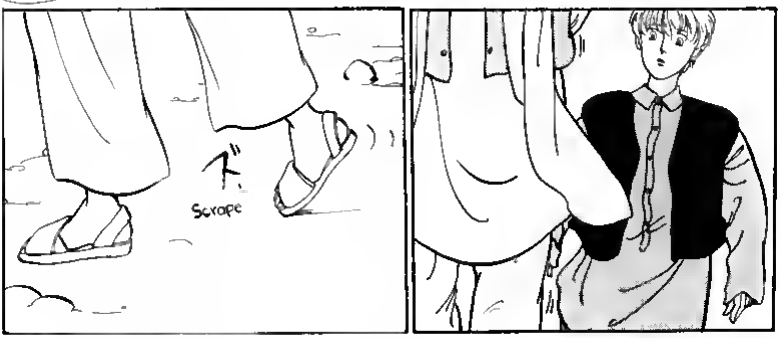
DON'T TOUCH MY BROTHER!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIS LEG?
AAAAAAAH!
YANK
THEN THIS IS JUST A BROKEN BONE.
IT'S JUST A SPRAIN

ARE YOU SIGHTSEEING, MR. SMITH?
...
SIGHTSEEING?! OBVIOUSLY I'M ON THE JOB.
MUST'VE BEEN TOUGH GETTING A KID INTO THE COUNTRY. CAN'T SAY THAT'S NORMAL
MY MY, QUITE THE ADULT
12
I'M NOT A KID!
HOW OLD ARE YOU?
I WON'T BE ABLE TO HOLD MY CAMERA FOR A WHILE. .

I CAME HERE TO PHOTO-GRAPH BUDDHIST RELICS!
I CAN'T HAVE YOU TWO COMMITTING SIBLING SUICIDE IN A PLACE LIKE THIS.
DO YOU HAVE A DEATH WISH?
WHY WOULD WE?!
IT'D BE A WASTE OF MY TIME IF YOU DIED RIGHT AFTER I HELPED YOU
HMPH THEN BE GLAD YOU GOT THE OPPORTUNITY WHILE YOU'RE STILL BREATHING.
I'VE NEVER MET ANYONE SO RUDE IN MY LIFE!

WHACK-JOB
IT'S ADELBERT.
RIGHT, BOY?
DON'T TOUCH MY BROTHER!
OHAYO

WHAT ELSE DO YOU KNOW?
IN GERMAN IT'S GUTEN MORGEN
IN SPANISH - BUENOS DIAS.
THAT'S "GOOD MORNING" IN JAPANESE.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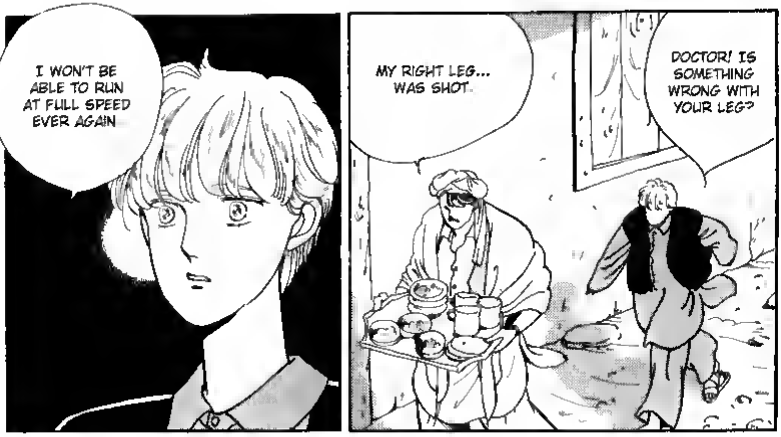
Scrape


I WON'T BE ABLE TO RUN AT FULL SPEED EVER AGAIN
MY RIGHT LEG... WAS SHOT.
DOCTOR! IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH YOUR LEG?

I WAS BORN IN JAPAN.
YOU SPEAK WITH A NEW YORK ACCENT, DOCTOR. WHERE ARE YOU FROM?
MR. SMITH.
HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
AFTER THAT, I MOVED ON TO AN AFGHAN REFUGEE HOSPITAL IN PAKISTAN.
YOU'RE JAPANESE?!
I WORKED AT A UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL IN NEW YORK
AND NOW I'M HERE ILLEGALLY.
I HEALED THE INJURIES OF GUERILLAS LIKE SAEED,

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN IN NEW YORK?
NO COMPLAINING IF YOU'RE OFFED BY THE SOVIETS.
Slllp
TRUE
THERE MUST'VE BEEN A REASON,
FOR AN ELITE LIKE YOU TO FALL SO FAR.
WHEN IN ROME, DO AS THE ROMANS DO
THE LEFT HAND IS THE HAND YOU WIPE YOUR ASS WITH.
ADELBERT
DON'T EAT WITH YOUR LEFT HAND

scrape scrape
tap tap
IF YOU FOLLOW ME, I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU HELP.
I'M GOING TO THE RIVER TO DO SOME LAUNDRY.
SPLISH
SPLISH

HAVE YOU GOTTEN USED TO SHITTING OUTDOORS?
YUP
HAVE YOU GOTTEN USED TO THE TICKS AND BEDBUGS?
IT MUST'VE BEEN ROUGH CROSSING THE BORDER AND COMING ALL THE WAY OUT HERE.
YEAH
YE... AH...
A LITTLE...
I CAN'T BELIEVE ANYONE WOULD BRING A KID TO A PLACE LIKE THIS.
IS SMITH OUT OF HIS MIND?
YOU SURE YOU TWO DIDN'T COME HERE TO KILL YOURSELVES?

SPLATTER
SPLASH
DON'T TALK BAD ABOUT MY BROTHER!
SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH
Splish
Splash
How childish of me...

DOCTOR..
THAT'S THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE SMILED

I'M SURPRISED I REMEMBER HOW ..
I CAME TO SAY GOODBYE.
I'M GOING TO AN AFGHAN REFUGEE HOSPITAL IN PAKISTAN.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'LL DO FROM THERE.

I'M SICK OF BEING STIGMATIZED BY PEOPLE HERE.
YOU TOLD ME NOT TO FOLLOW YOU.
SO IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN COMMIT SUICIDE.

I HAVE TO GET BACK TO WORK.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
crack
FINE. I'M NOT TRYING TO ENDEAR MYSELF TO YOU.
I'M FINDING IT HARD TO LIKE YOU!
IDIOTS HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO ACT STUPID.
I WON'T STOP YOU. GO AHEAD.

HEY NOW,
WHEN DID YOU BECOME A FOLLOWER OF ISLAM?
!
YOU'RE BLEEDING. ARE YOU HURT?
LET ME TAKE A LOOK
!
ADEL!
NO!
IF YOU'RE HURT, YOU NEED TREATMENT!
NO!
ADEL!

YOU CAN'T SAY NO!
NO !
HEY! TAKE IT EASY!
EH?!
LITTLE BROTHER MY ASS! THAT RAT BASTARD
WHAT KIND OF BROTHER DOESN'T HAVE BALLS?!

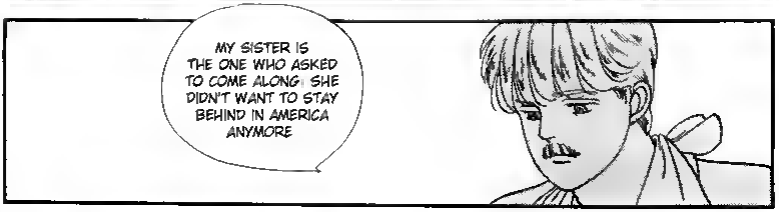
THIS IS AN ISLAMIC COLINTRY.
MY BROTHER SAID WE CAN'T MOVE FREELY SO LONG AS I'M GIRL...
DID YOU KNOW YOU'RE A GIRL?
WHAT A PRETTY NAME
ADELINA
WHAT'S YOUR REAL NAME?

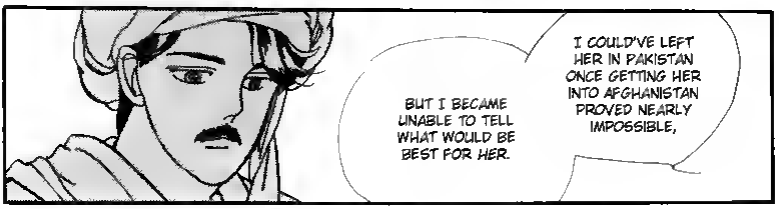
MY DECEASED LOVER HAD BLONDE HAIR TOO.
DECEASED?
YES. GONE.
EVEN THOUGH I LOVED THAT PERSON WITH EVERYTHING I HAD.
SMACK
I'LL FOLD UP THIS CLOTH...
THERE CERTAINLY AREN'T ANY SANITARY NAPKINS AROUND HERE...

EH?
GET BACK HERE!
WHAT DID YOU DO TO HER?!
SHE'S YOUR SISTER!
"BROTHER", MY ASS...
SURELY YOU'VE HEARD OF A LITTLE THING CALLED MENSTRUATION!
WHAT DID I DO TO HER?!
WHA...

ADELINA DOESN'T BELONG HERE!
AH...
RELATIVES?
NO.
ANY CLOSE FAMILY?
EVEN SO,
I'D RATHER WE WERE TOGETHER...
BUT WHILE I WAS OFF COVERING A STORY IN LEBANON,
I LEFT MY SISTER AT A DISTANT RELATIVE'S PLACE ONCE.

HE FAILED IN HIS ATTEMPT TO RAPE ADELINA.
BUT SHE WAS SEVERELY WOUNDED
AND PUT IN AN ORPHANAGE FOR PROTECTION
SHE WAS ASSAULTED BY THE FAMILY'S SON
I HAD ALREADY ACCEPTED PAYMENT FROM THE PUBLISHING COMPANY TO GO TO AFGHANISTAN.
SO I HAD NO MEANS OF REFUSING THE JOB.


MY SISTER IS THE ONE WHO ASKED TO COME ALONG. SHE DIDN'T WANT TO STAY BEHIND IN AMERICA ANYMORE


I COULD'VE LEFT HER IN PAKISTAN ONCE GETTING HER INTO AFGHANISTAN PROVED NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE,
BUT I BECAME UNABLE TO TELL WHAT WOULD BE BEST FOR HER.

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT OF DYING?
I'VE THOUGHT NO SUCH THING.
DYING?
THAT'S ALL YOU EVER THINK ABOUT, DOCTOR.
WELL, MY LOVER DIED
HE HAD A WIFE.
!
BUT MY PARTNER COVERED ME AND DIED BY HIS OWN WIFE'S BULLET.
SHE WENT WILD WITH RAGE WHEN SHE FOUND OUT ABOUT US
AND CAME TO KILL ME,

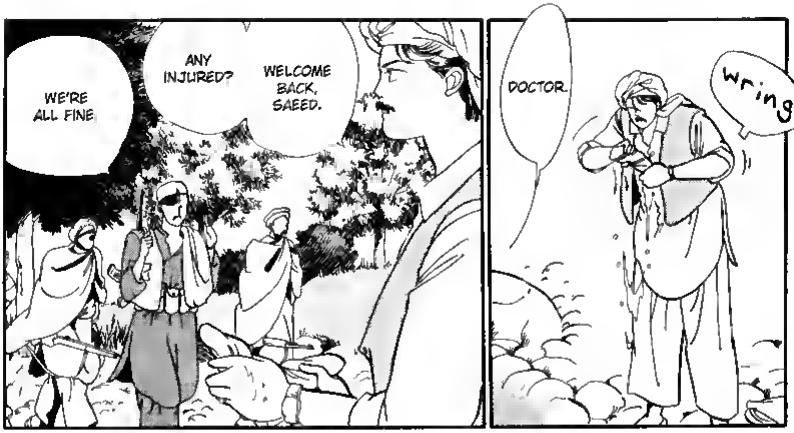
PRETTY SCANDALOUS, ISN'T IT?
THE WIFE IS IN AN INFIRMARY NOW...
AND I'M HERE WAITING FOR SOMEONE TO KILL ME.

I WANT TO DIE
MY LOVER CALLS FOR ME FROM HELL.
DO YOU THINK YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO'S KNOWN TRAGEDY?!
YOU MAY CALL ME AN IDIOT,
BUT YOU'RE THE BIGGEST IDIOT OF THEM ALL!
YOU'RE NOT THE MOST TRAGIC FIGURE ON THE PLANET, YOU KNOW!

PEOPLE HAVE BEEN GIVEN LIFE.
THAT'S WHY, NO MATTER WHAT TRAGEDIES I MAY FACE, I'VE NEVER ONCE THOUGHT OF DEATH!
WISHING FOR DEATH IS DOWNRIGHT DESPICABLE!
IF DEATH IS THE ANSWER, WHAT DOES THAT SAY ABOUT THE GUERILLA FORCES PUTTING THEIR LIVES ON THE LINE FOR FREEDOM AND EVERYTHING THEY CARE ABOUT?!
PEOPLE MUSTN'T GIVE UP ON LIFE UNTIL GOD SAYS IT'S THEIR TIME TO GO!

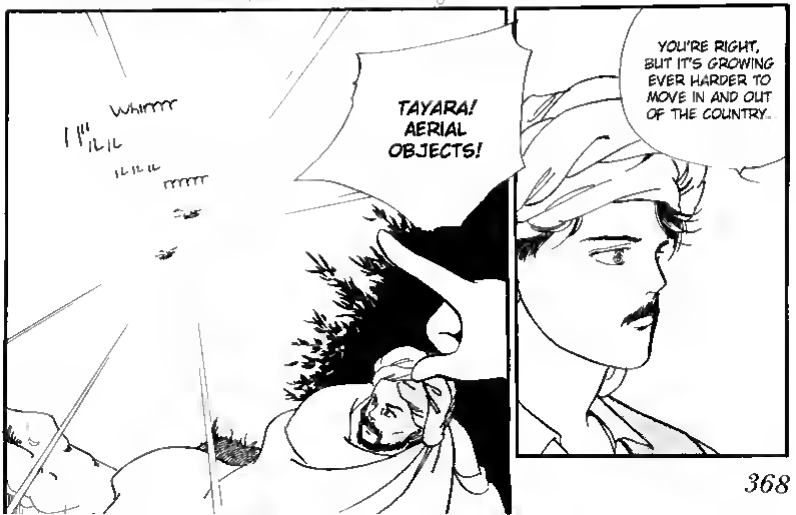
GOD, HUH?
LIVE UNTIL HE SAYS IT'S TIME TO GO...?

WHAT ABOUT YOUR JOB?
WITH MY HAND THE WAY IT IS, I'M OUT OF COMMISSION FOR A WHILE.
SHALL WE HEAD BACK TO AMERICA, ADELINA?
BRO!
IF IT'S ME YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT, DON'T BE.
I'M FINE
I'M SORRY, ADEL.



THEY CAN'T SET UP A BLOCKADE *
THE SOVIETS HAVE SET UP A BLOCKADE ALONG THE BORDER
THEY WANT TO STAVE OFF THE INFLUX OF WEAPONS COMING IN FROM THE WEST.

*A. N. Because there are nomad Afghani tribes that cross freely between borders



SLIDE
splash
splash
THEY'RE HEADED TOWARD THE BASE!
HIND!*
*A N-ed the Mi-24 attack helicopter
Boom...
Boom...
IT'S A SURPRISE ATTACK!

NO...
ADEL!
BOOM
ズズン
CRACK
WOOOOSH
KYAAAAA!

woosh
RUMBLE
ADEL!
pew pew
crack
BRO!
KABOOM

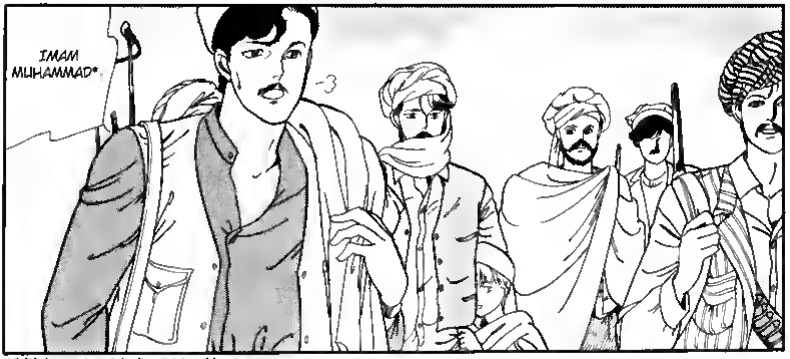
THEY GOT US...
ADEL
ADEL!
ADEL!
SMITH!

ADELINA
ADEL!
ADELINA?
AH, THANK GOODNESS
YOU'RE ALIVE

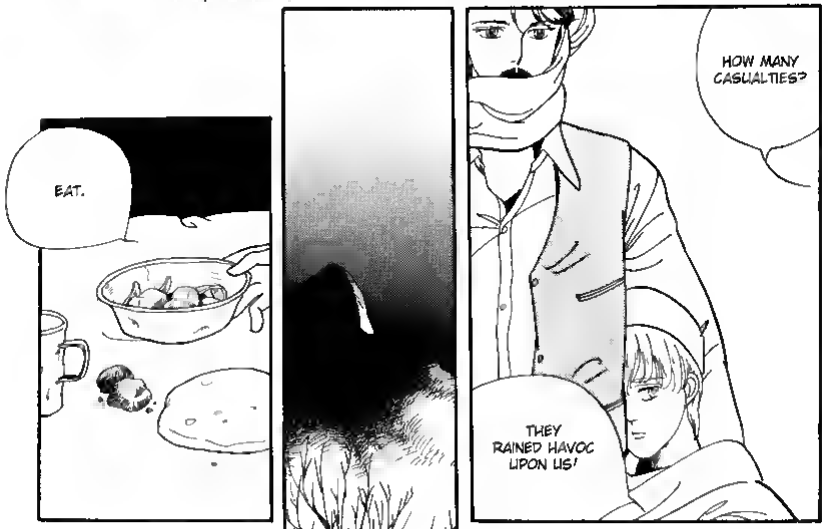
SMITH...
...

DID GOD SAY IT WAS YOUR TIME?!
IT'S ALRIGHT, ADEL.
IT'S ALRIGHT
I'M HERE
ADELINA?

SAY SOMETHING!
ADEL!
ADELINA?
CAN YOU SPEAK?

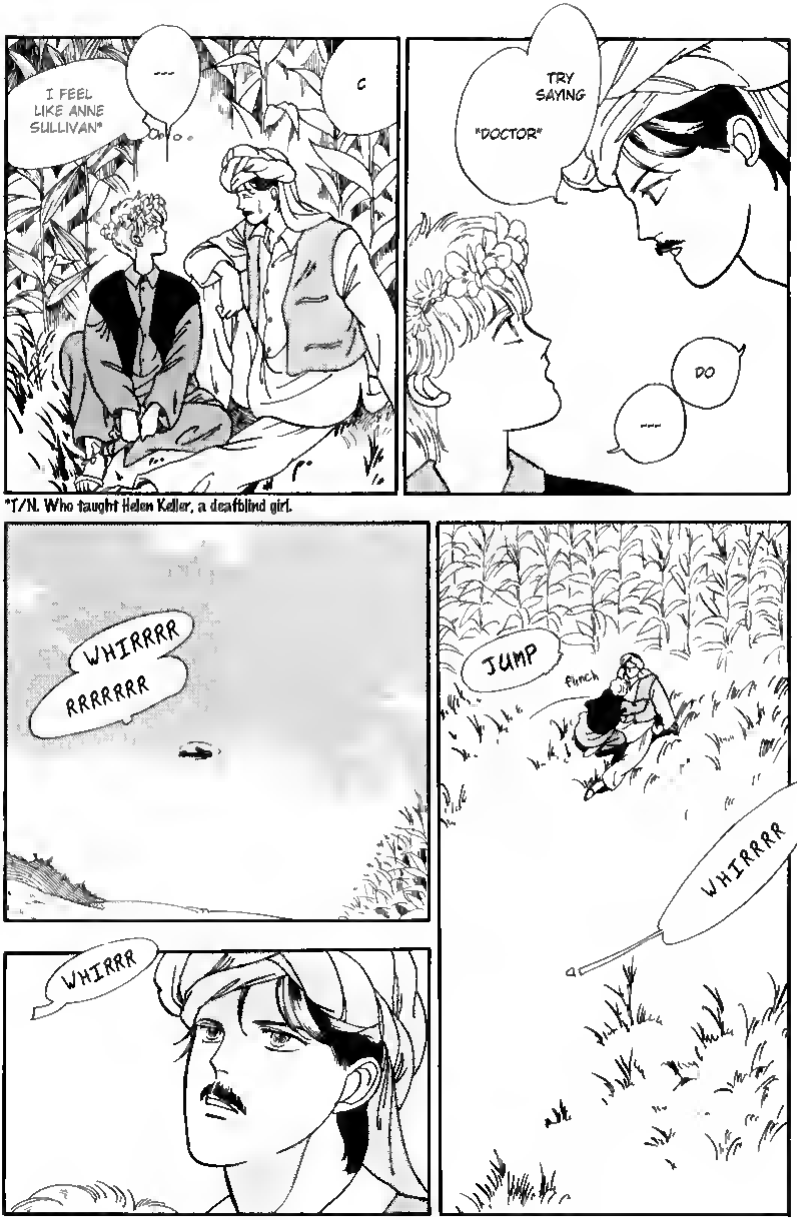


*T/N. Imam is a Muslim spiritual leader



YOUR BODY NEEDS IT.
...
SHE'LL GET BETTER; SHE JUST NEEDS TIME
IT'S PSYCHO-LOGICAL.

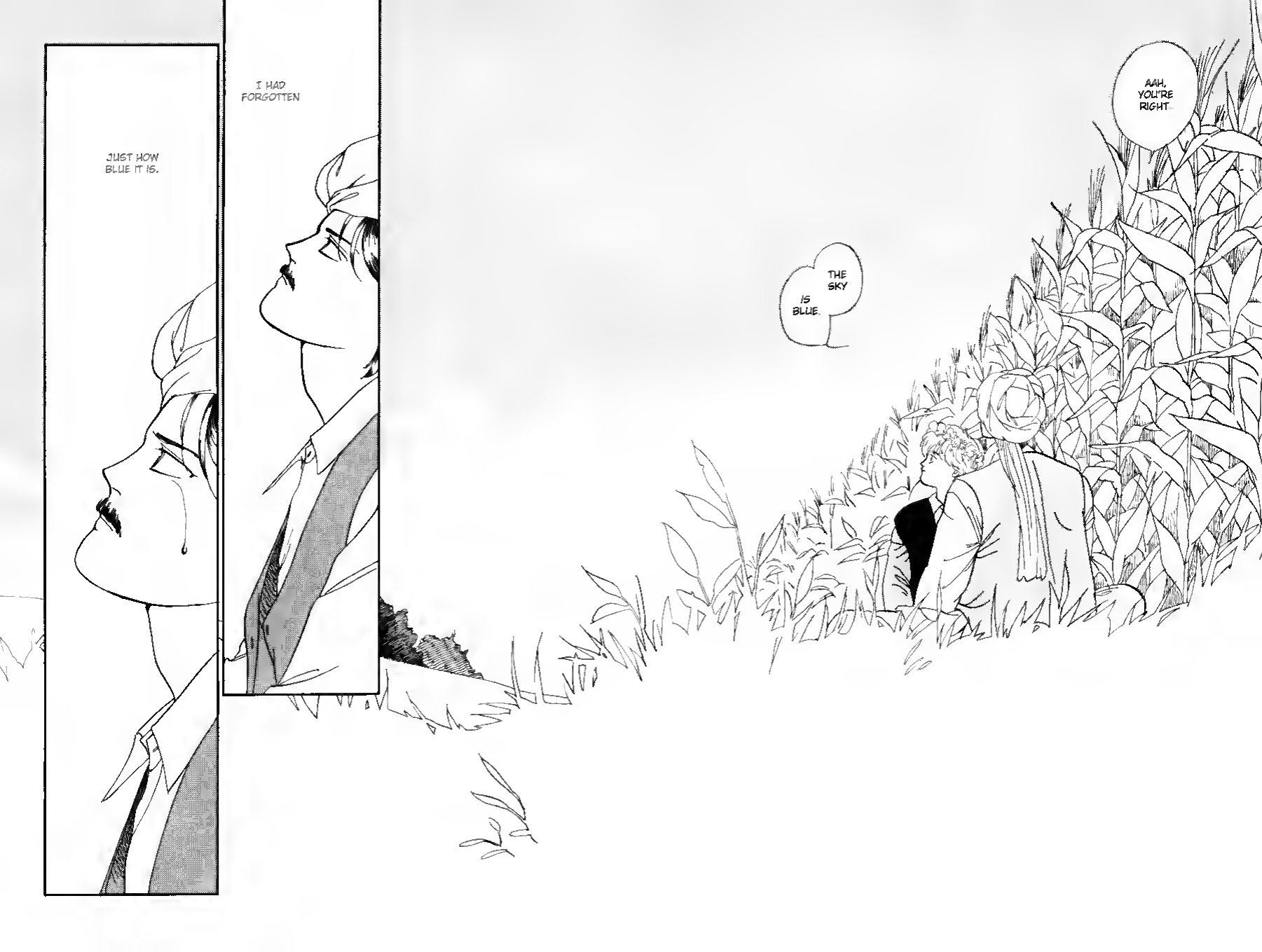
GIVE MEEE OOONE OF THE DANGO HAAANGING FROM YOUR HIIIP
MOOOMO-TARO-SAN
MOOOMO-TARO-SAN
NOW YOU'RE A PRINCESS.
THERE
ALL FINISHED



*T/N. Who taught Helen Keller, a deafblind girl.

IT'S AN MI-8, A TRANSPORT HELICOPTER.
IT'S ALRIGHT
---
jump
!

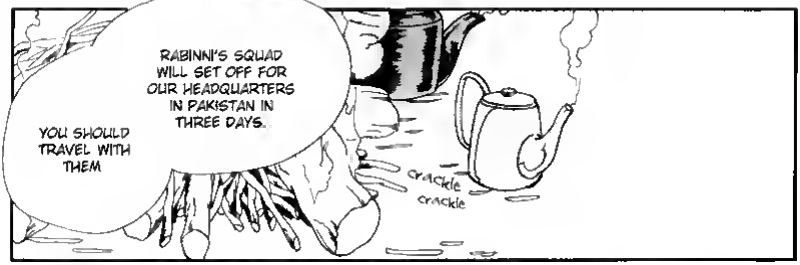
BLUE...
...SKY
HM?
WHAT IS IT?


JUST HOW BLUE IT IS.
I HAD FORGOTTEN
THE SKY IS BLUE.
AAH, YOU'RE RIGHT...

!
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
CAN'T SLEEP?
COME HERE.
I WON'T DO ANYTHING TO YOU.

I
LOV...
...!
WHAT?
...
I LIKE YOU TOO, ADELINA
THANKS..
"I LOVE YOU"...?!
IT'S EVEN LOOSE ON YOUR THUMB
LET ME GIVE YOU MY RING..

I WANT TO LIVE!
I HAVE TO TAKE ADELINA AND GET OUT OF HERE.
WE SHOULD LEAVE THIS PLACE.


RABINNI'S SQUAD WILL SET OFF FOR OUR HEADQUARTERS IN PAKISTAN IN THREE DAYS.
YOU SHOULD TRAVEL WITH THEM
crackle crackle

WE'RE IN YOUR DEBT, DOCTOR. THANKS TO YOU MANY OF OUR FIGHTERS, MYSELF INCLUDED, HAVE BEEN ABLE TO RETURN TO THE BATTLEFIELD.

HAVE SOME CHAI
YEAH, I'LL DO THAT
THANKS

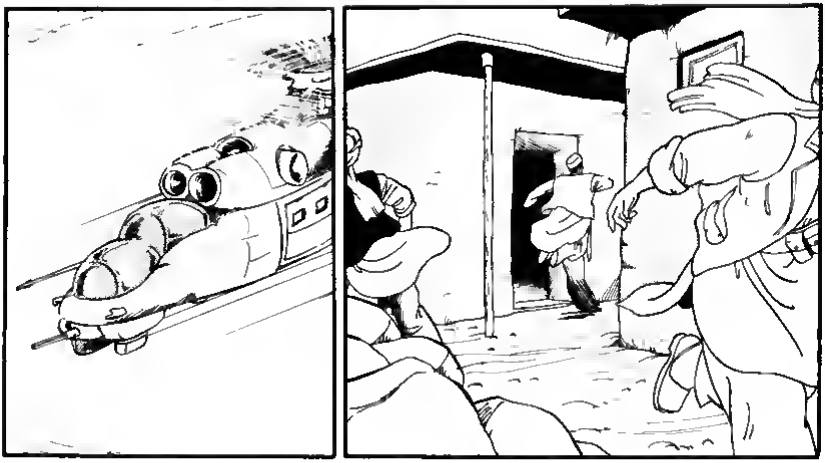
YOU'VE DONE A LOT FOR ME, TOO.
THANKS

RIP
RIP

Whirrr
rrrrr
Bang
バン
Bang
バン
Bang
Bang
RUMBLE
ゴオオ
バン
バン
HELICOPTERS!
THEY FOUND US ALL THE WAY OUT HERE?!
Clang
ガシャ

swish
ヒュン
swish
ヒュン
ヒュン
swish
ヒュン
swish
RUMBLE

HINDS!



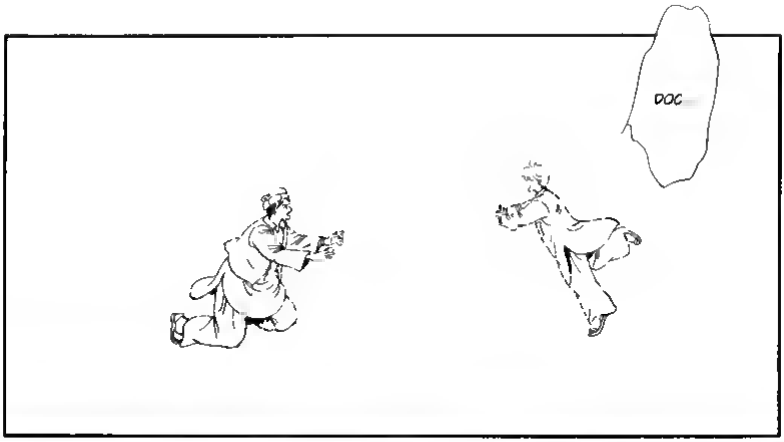
Ratta-tat-tat
wooooosh
ADEL!
Wooooosh
Ratta-tat
Ratta-tat-
tat

DAMN THIS INFERNAL FOOT OF MINE!
Rumble
SLIP
crack
crack
Booooom

swish
swish
swish
wooosh
Ratta-tat-tat-tat
ADEL!
CRACK

...
...
ADEL!
Roar
Boom
Boom
...
STAY BACK, ADEL!
GET DOWN!

...O!
...O
SWISH
Swish
Swish
bam
bam
O
C
ADEEEEL!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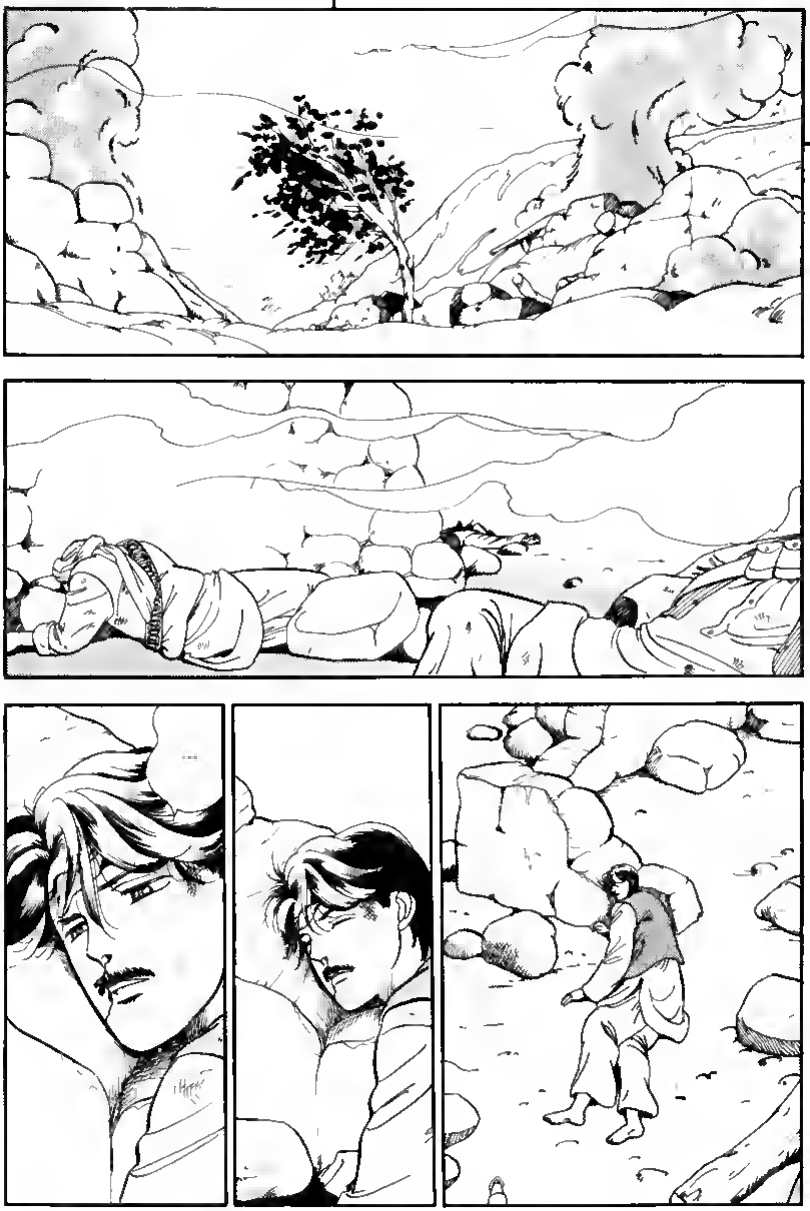

WHAT'S THAT NOISE?
WHERE ARE THE HELICOPTERS?
IT'S MY EARS RINGING

OH, GOD!
CAN IT BE...
MY TIME TO GO?

JUST AS BLUE...
THE SKY IS,
TODAY
AAH

"My love is as great as the universe
And I give it all to you"

Swaying trees
Gusts of wind
Quiet hours

Days I can't retrace
Love that won't return
Quiet hours

I don't know
What I've lost
But perhaps it has all
Been one long dream

"My love is as great as the universe
And I give it all to you"

Printed in the June 1985 issue of Petit Flower

T/N: I don't know why the last chapter has gone BACK IN TIME to be printed two years before the previous one, but whatevs. Maybe the person who typed that was too busy sobbing to pay attention. The hand... with the ring... uuu...